



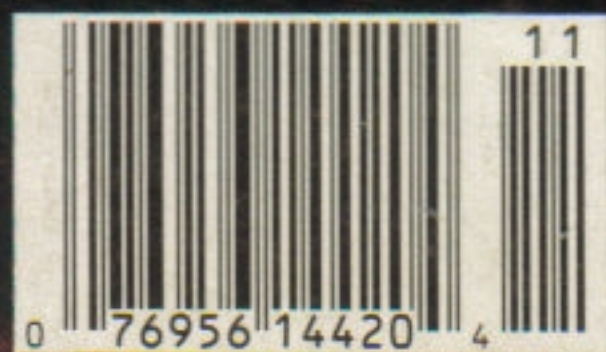
PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

**When The Going Gets Tough...
WILL NIKITA KOLOFF
TURN BAD AGAIN?**

**Halfway To
Immortality:
HULK HOGAN
TARGETS
BRUNO'S
RECORD WWF
TITLE REIGN**

**Best Two Out
Of Three:
JIMMY HART
IS THE NEW
"MANAGER OF
CHAMPIONS"!**

**PRESS
CONFERENCE:
BARRY WINDHAM**



RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

OVER 18,000 FANS packed the Capital Centre in Landover, Maryland, on July 2 for the first big card of the 1987 Great American Bash series. As expected, it was an outstanding show and some of the biggest stars from the NWA and UWF were on hand for this great night of wrestling.

In the main event, **Dusty Rhodes**, **Nikita Koloff**, and **The Road Warriors**, with **Paul Ellering** at ringside, defeated **The Four Horsemen**, with **J.J. Dillon** and **Dark Journey** at ringside, in a thrilling steel cage match. The highlight of this 20-minute thriller was when Rhodes lined up **Ric Flair**, **Tully Blanchard**, **Lex Luger**, and **Arn Anderson** and

gave each man a bionic elbow. "I call that my 'chorus line,'" Rhodes said afterward. The match ended when, with all eight men in the ring, **Animal** clotheslined Anderson just as he was coming off the second rope against Rhodes. "The American Dream" then covered Anderson for the pin.

In other matches: **Rocky King** pinned **Thunderfoot II** ... **Freebirds Terry Gordy** and **Buddy Roberts** defeated **Paul Jones** and **Ivan Koloff** ... **Dick Murdoch**, with **Eddie Gilbert** at ringside, beat **Steve Williams** in a Texas death match ... UWF heavyweight champ **Big Bubba Rogers** beat **Barry Windham** by countout in a Louisville

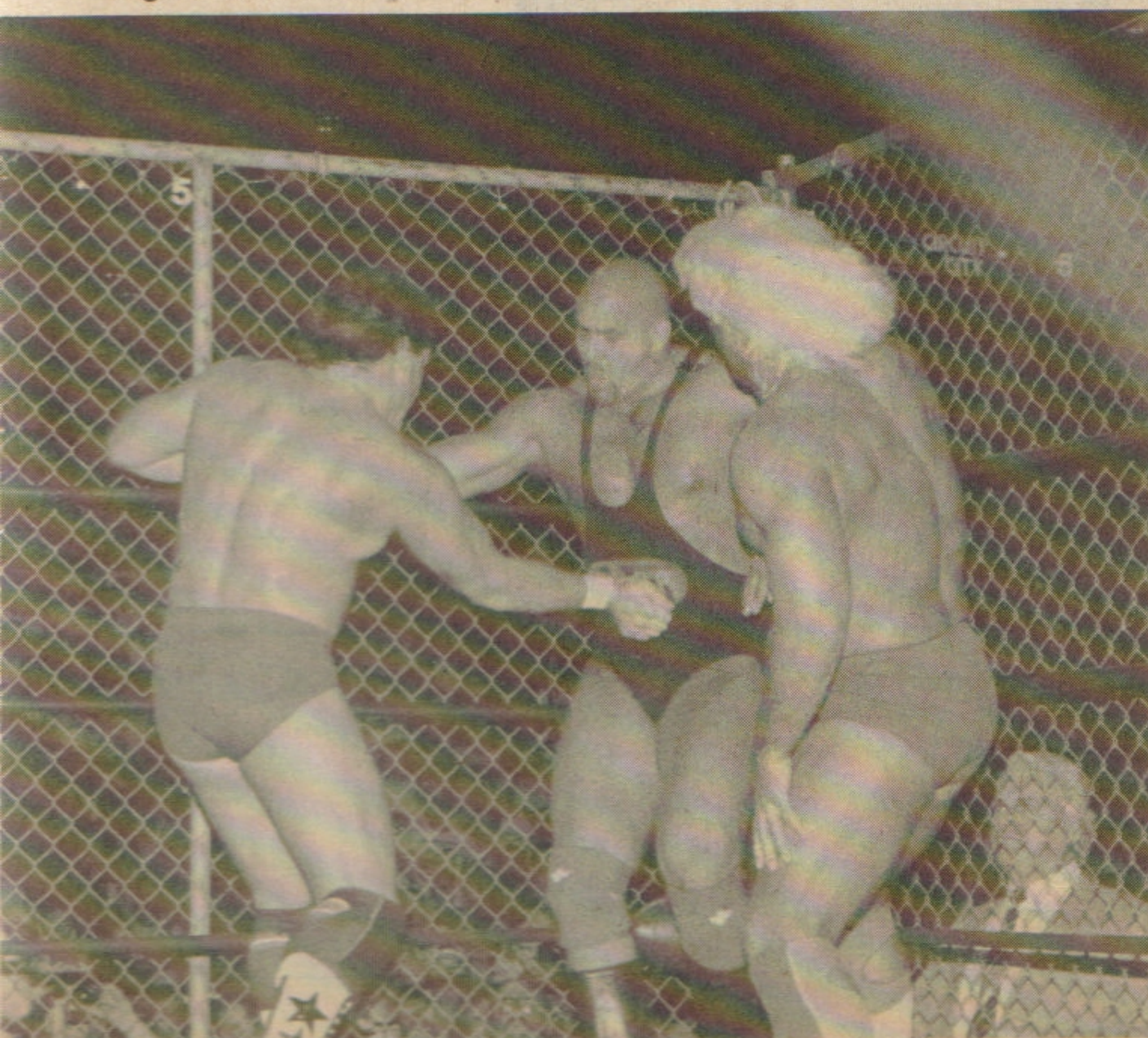
street match ... **Eddie Gilbert** beat **Mark Fleming** by submission.

There was one other incredible match on the card: NWA World tag team champions **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** defeated **The Midnight Express** by disqualification, but for some time it looked like the Midnights had won the belts. **Rick Morton** and **Robert Gibson** combined to double-dropkick **Bobby Eaton** into referee **Earl Hebner**, knocking him out of the ring. Bubba Rogers then ran into the ring to powerslam Morton, then dragged Eaton on top of him. Bubba then dragged the ref back into the ring and Hebner made the three-count. The Midnights were awarded the belts, but another referee, **Dick Woherle**, entered the ring and reversed the decision.

David Sammartino, son of "The Living Legend" **Bruno Sammartino**, is currently in the Midwest Wrestling Association, a promotion based in Michigan. He is gunning for a shot at Ohio state champion **Man Mountain Lancaster** ... **Bobo Brazil** is also wrestling for Midwest, along with current MWA champion **Iron Mike Anthony** ... **Jim Cornette**, manager of **The Midnight Express**, injured his left knee when **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** applied an Indian deathlock to the manager at the June 27 Philadelphia NWA show.

Kevin Sullivan, who is absolutely one of the weirdest men in professional wrestling, continues to get stranger. **Blackjack Mulligan** was wrestling **Dory Funk Jr.** at the Eddie Graham Sports Stadium in Orlando, Florida, when a bunch of rulebreakers ran out to help Funk. Suddenly, a car drove onto the field and Sullivan

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Tully Blanchard and Ric Flair double-team Nikita Koloff during an exciting eight-man cage match at the first Great American Bash card, in Landover, Maryland. Koloff and his partners Dusty Rhodes and The Road Warriors beat The Four Horsemen when Rhodes pinned Arn Anderson.

from the desk of. . .

Stuart M. Saks

John Stossel and Vince McMahon have reached an out-of-court settlement (see "Media Review" on page 46 for more details), and I'm left with the same feeling as when a major title match ends in a double-countout. After almost three years, I still don't know the truth about what happened in the Madison Square Garden dressing room area where David Shultz slugged the TV reporter. We all saw the result of the attack on 20-20, but, since the case will not be going to trial, we'll probably never get all the facts, just a lot of ifs.

- If Stossel's only reason for interviewing Shultz was to antagonize a man practically twice his size, he's probably better off having had some brain cells rearranged.

- If Stossel was acting as a responsible investigative reporter, he had every right to question Shultz, who was absolutely wrong to do what he did.

- If Shultz was irritated about being told by Stossel that wrestling was fake, he should have walked away from him.

- If Shultz was ordered by Vince McMahon to attack John Stossel, he should have told Vince McMahon to do it himself.

- If McMahon ordered Shultz to attack Stossel, he deserves far worse than the \$425,000 settlement for Stossel, \$275,000 of which came right out of Titan Sports' bank account.

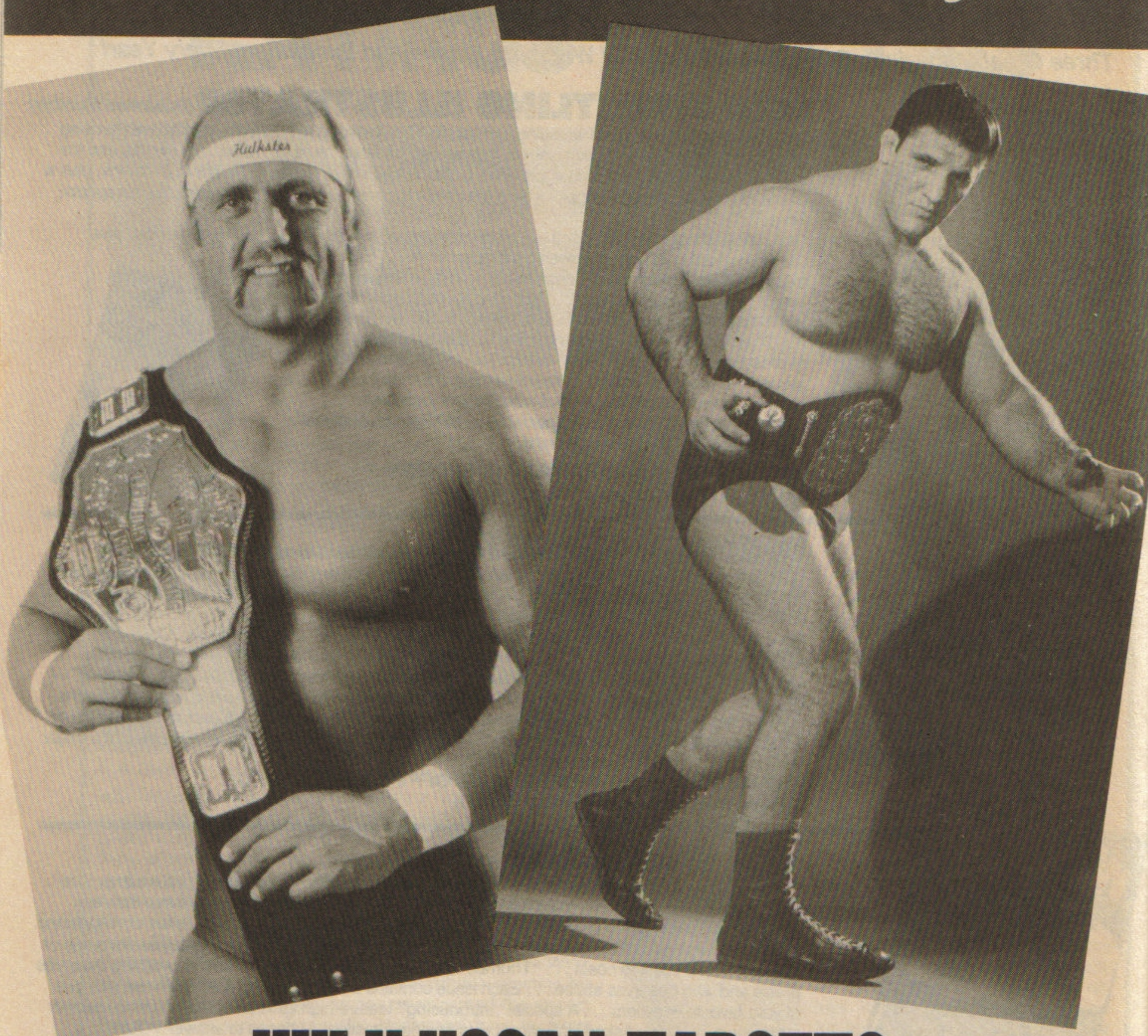
- If McMahon did not order Shultz to attack Stossel, he deserves the gratitude of everybody involved in the sport for averting a trial that could only have brought the sport damaging publicity.

Too many ifs and not enough facts. According to Stossel's attorney, Bob Kelner, the whole case revolved around the question of whether or not McMahon told Shultz to "tear his ass up—blast him!" While McMahon's attorneys were confident that a jury would not believe that the head of Titan Sports would say such a thing, by all appearances they weren't confident enough to let the case go before a jury.

But appearances can be deceiving. In this case, I strongly believe that while McMahon and his attorneys believed they could win the case, they felt there was too much to risk by allowing the case to go before not a jury, but the public. The case would have been tried in federal court and, quite naturally, the press would have made a federal case out of it. Believe me, the WWF—and wrestling in general—does not need a trial in which the question of the sport's validity was sure to be brought to the forefront. No, wrestling has

(Continued on page 56)

Halfway To Immortality:



HULK HOGAN TARGETS BRUNO'S RECORD WWF TITLE REIGN

Seven years, eight months, and one day. That's the length of Bruno Sammartino's record WWF World heavyweight title reign. Hulk Hogan has just about reached the halfway point to Bruno's record, and as his title reign grows longer, questions persist about his ability to catch "The Living Legend"

By Matt Brock

I REMEMBER THE night like it was yesterday. May 17, 1963, a Friday night at the old Madison Square Garden in New York. On this very special evening a youngster from Abruzzi, Italy, named Bruno Sammartino took on Buddy Rogers for the WWF heavyweight championship.

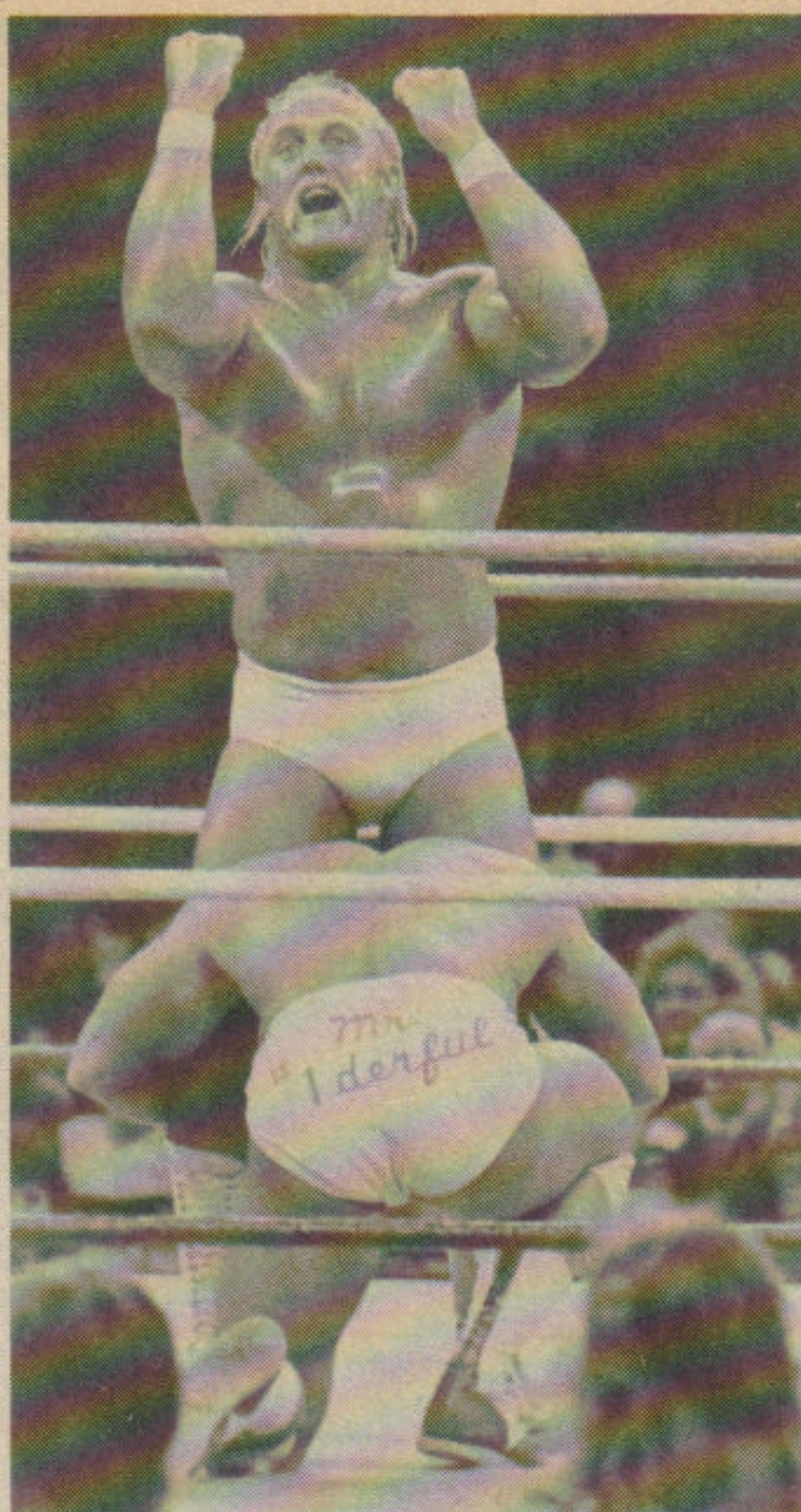
Sammartino won the belt, the crowd stood and cheered for what seemed like hours, and afterward, everybody went out and celebrated the crowning of a new champion. Probably nobody in the arena that night suspected that Sammartino would hold the belt for as long as he did: seven years, eight months, and one day. He finally lost the title to Ivan Koloff on Monday, January 18, 1971, at the new Garden, but Bruno had long since taken his place alongside the great sports dynasties of all time.

He would have another long title reign, from December 10, 1973, to April 30, 1977, but that first one is still the longest in the history of the WWF. Nobody has ever held the belt longer. When people talk about "The Living Legend," I know what they're taking about. The greatest grappler to ever step foot in the squared circle.

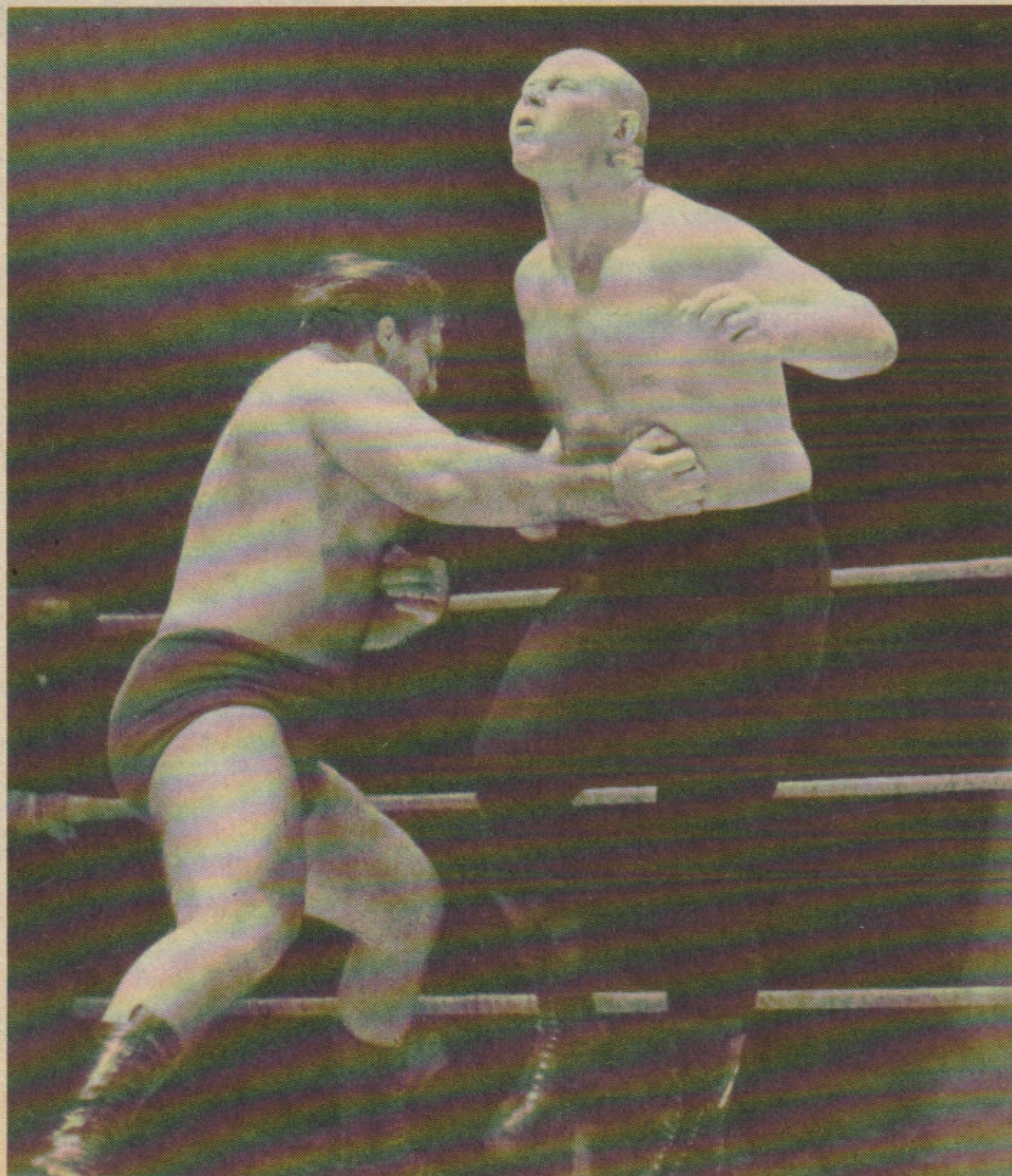
I bring this up because, if nothing changes, WWF World champion Hulk Hogan will be halfway to the record this November. This is especially interesting because Hogan has received more publicity in his 3½ years as champion than Bruno ever had. And that's a shame, because in his wildest dreams, Hogan will never be half the wrestler Sammartino was.

That's my opinion, of course. But it's also the opinion of Bob Backlund, whose World championship reign of five years, 10 months, and six days is second only to Sammartino's. Backlund came within two years of Sammartino's record, and during his quest he realized just how elusive it was.

"Bruno's title reign is as untouch-

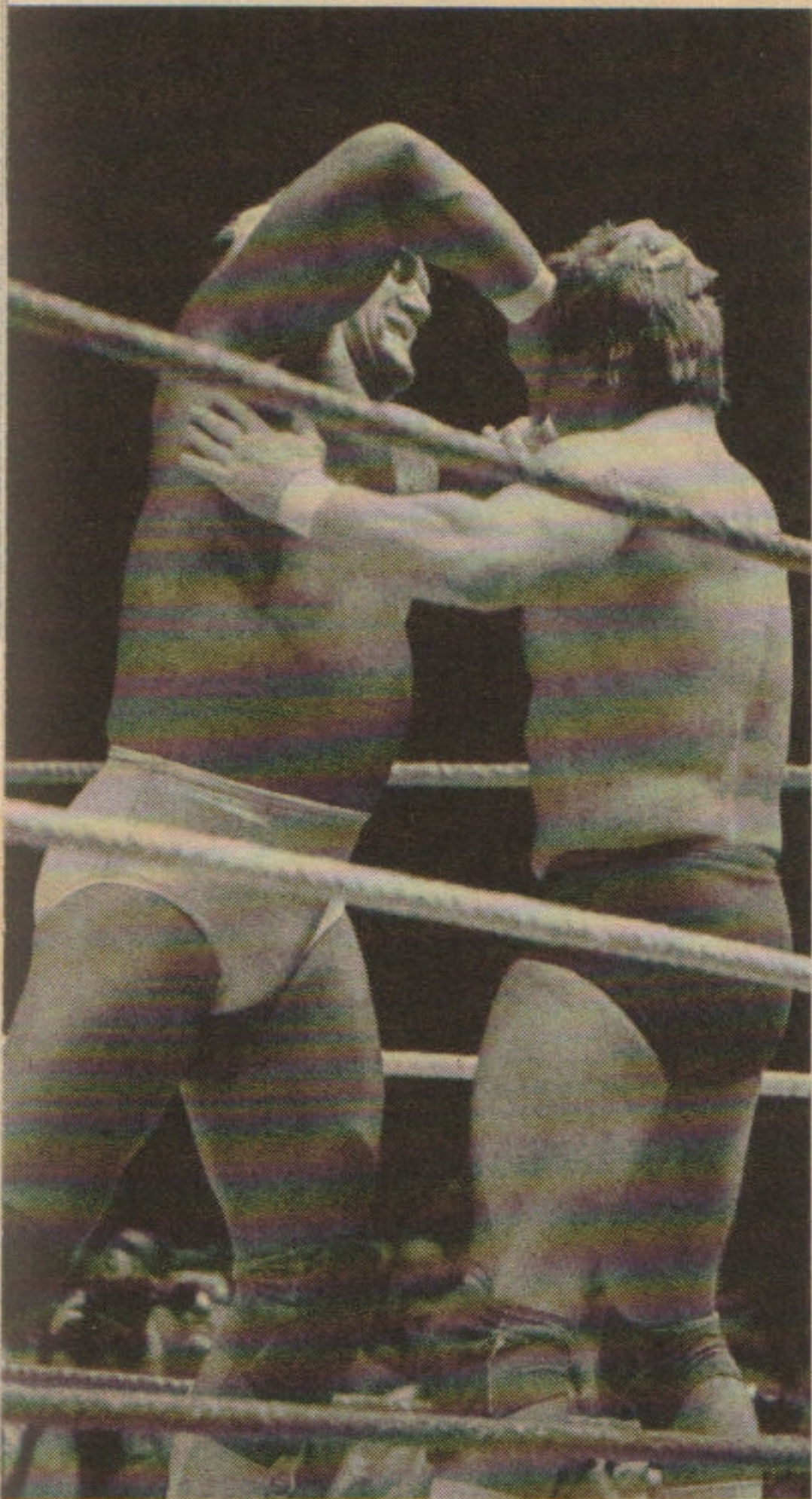


Hulk Hogan prepares to piledrive Paul Orndorff (above). Bruno Sammartino lifts Baron Von Raschke off his feet with a blow to the midsection during a 1967 match (below). Bruno reigned as WWF World champion for a 7½-year stretch, a record that Hogan will find tough to beat.



able as Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak and Lou Gehrig's consecutive-games-played streak," said Backlund, who has sworn that he would never again step foot in the ring until he received a shot at Hogan. "Besides, even if it's not untouchable, I can't imagine a man like Hogan getting even *close* to it. Hogan might be almost halfway, but that's not close. I had the belt for almost six years and didn't consider myself within range.

"The thing that gives him a chance is that Hogan's facing much weaker competition that I did," Backlund continued. "Remember, Superstar Graham and The Iron Sheik were after me for a good part of those five years, but who's Hogan wrestling these days? Harley Race? He's well past his prime. Killer Khan? He's dangerous—he broke Andre the Giant's leg—but he's a



Hogan gives Roddy Piper a facerake at the first WrestleMania (above) and throws King Kong Bundy into the cage at the second (above right). When he was champion, Sammartino didn't have the opportunity to showcase his talents at major events like WrestleMania.



joke as a wrestler."

Backlund remembers all too well the pressures that built up as his championship reign wore on.

"Everybody's gunning for you," said Backlund. "The longer you have the belt, the more enemies you make. After a while, even the guys you once called your friends aren't on your side anymore. The thing is, the WWF usually won't pit a fan favorite against a fan favorite, so some of these guys are left waiting for years to get a shot against a rulebreaker champion, but it never happens."

Backlund's words only serve to make Sammartino's brilliant title reign even more impressive and, in turn, elusive. Hogan, however, might have a shot at coming close to Sammartino's record only because of his schedule of title de-

fenses. Hogan's typical schedule has been to maintain an average of two or three title defenses a week, with occasional lapses of several weeks without so much as one title defense. By contrast, Sammartino put his title on the line nearly every night.

At that rate, it would take three or four years for Hogan to defend the belt as often as Sammartino did in one year. Wrestling historians have estimated that Bruno defended his title well over 2,000 times during his initial title reign. That is an amazing record, and provides far more tangible evidence of Sammartino's brilliance than does the mere—ha! *mere!*—length of his reign.

"Bruno Sammartino, we had our differences, but he was the greatest wrestler of all-time," Capt. Lou Albano once told me. "Now I guided Ivan Koloff to victory over Sammartino, and that was the greatest victory of my career because of the sheer invincibility of the man, the

sheer greatness of Bruno Sammartino. Hulk Hogan is also a great wrestler, he is a fine friend, but he is only halfway there, and the second half is always the toughest half, daddy."

There have also been steady rumors that Hogan is planning to retire in the near future. "Hulk really hasn't given much thought to breaking the record," said a source close to Hogan. "He really isn't concerned about other people's history. He's concerned about his own history, and about how people will remember him. He probably won't be wrestling four years from now."

That only points out another incredible aspect of Bruno's title reign. He never lost interest in wrestling. His thirst for competition only grew. In every sense of the word, he was a man's man. Hulk Hogan is a child's man. I would never, ever think about downing a few with Hogan. Bruno Sammartino would be welcomed in any bar. □

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.

PRESS CONFERENCE BARRY WINDHAM

THE TRIPLE CROWN. The phrase itself suggests sports greatness. In baseball, winning the triple crown means leading the league in batting average, home runs, and runs batted in, an elusive goal for even the most magnificent major leaguers. In horse racing, winning the triple crown means finishing first in the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness, and the Belmont Stakes. Those who succeed become a permanent part of racing history.

Barry Windham's goal is the Triple Crown of wrestling. He already owns the Western States title, which he won on June 20 in Houston. Now he's in hot pursuit of Bubba Rogers' UWF heavyweight title and Ric Flair's NWA World championship.

There is rarely a day of the week when Windham is not either defending his title or going after another. Windham, who has always been known as one of the hardest workers in the sport, is relentless in pursuit of his goals. He has also spent considerable energy teaming with his brother Kendall or with Ronnie



Despite wrestling a grueling schedule of matches, Western States heavyweight champion Barry Windham takes the time to sign autographs. Night after night, Windham proves that he is one of the finest wrestlers in the world.

Garvin in an effort to take the U.S. tag belts from The Midnight Express.

By any measure, Windham's career is in full swing. After bouncing back and forth between Florida and the WWF for a few years, he has firmly established himself as one of the great talents in wrestling. Incredibly, despite wrestling in both the UWF and the NWA, he has man-

aged to build up momentum.

Following the July 2 Great American Bash card in Landover, Maryland, Senior Editor Bill Apter, Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez, Associate Editor Dave Rosenbaum, and Managing Editor Craig Peters spoke with Windham about the many things going on in this young lion's career.



"I have a better chance [of winning the Triple Crown of wrestling] than anyone else. I already have the Western States belt and I'm the only one going after the other two, so nobody can win it besides me."

BILL APTER: Barry, thanks once again for taking the time out to speak with us. In light of your busy schedule, I'm surprised you even have a spare minute.

BARRY WINDHAM: Actually, I really don't have too much spare time, but you know, I made the decision on my own to wrestle this heavy schedule. For the longest time, I felt like my career was going nowhere. I mean, I was wrestling well and I was popular with the fans, which is very important to me, but I didn't have a belt and the prospects didn't look good. Let me tell you, guys, coming to the World Championship area was the best move of my life, and deciding to wrestle in the UWF, too, was just as good.

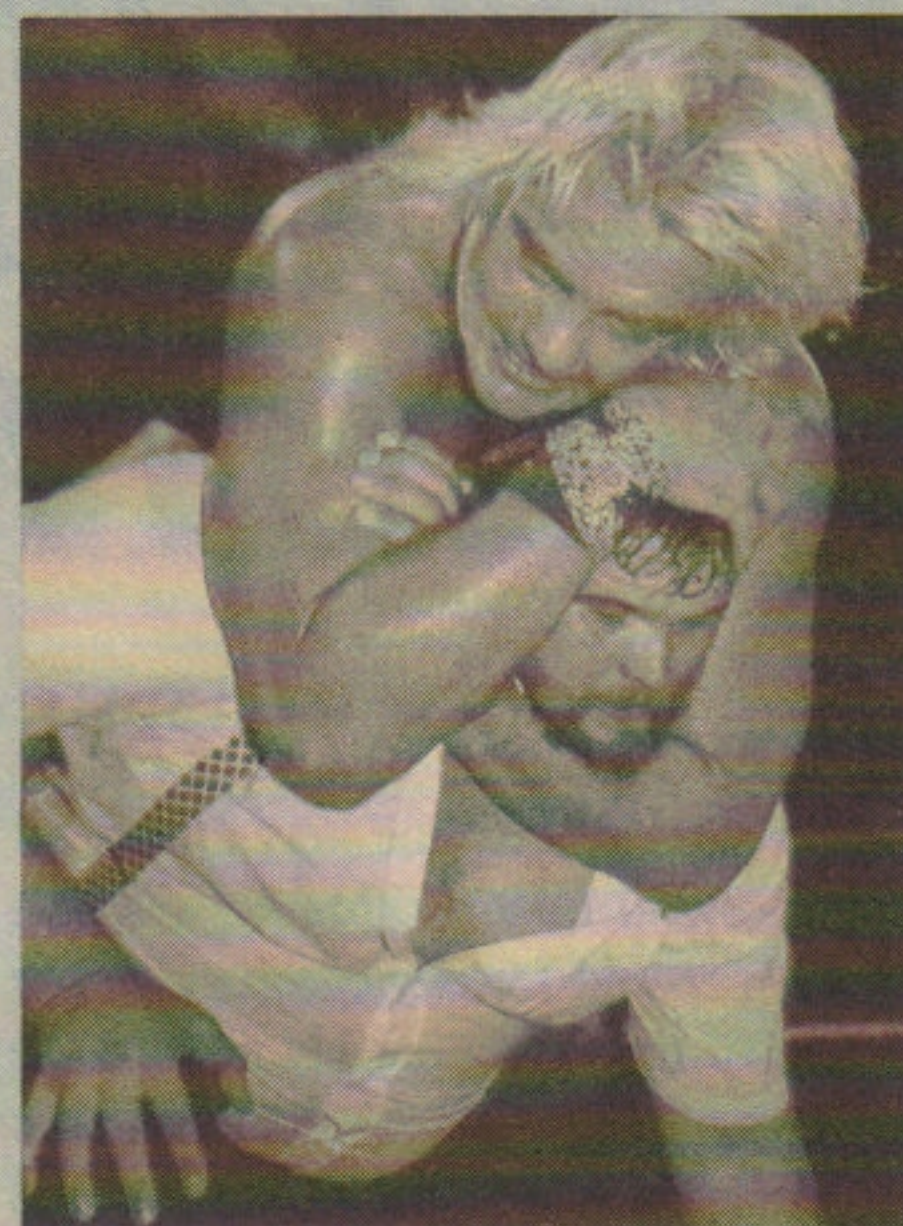
ANDY RODRIGUEZ: But how do you do it? First of all, the traveling has to be grueling. You're constantly going back and forth between the East Coast and Texas. Second of all, you're facing top flight competition every night. You wrestle Bubba Rogers in Texas, then you wrestle Flair in North Carolina. I'm not sure too many wrestlers could keep up with

your schedule.

WINDHAM: Let me put it this way, Andy. You're only young once, and a wrestler's career doesn't last very long. The way I figure it, I'll be at the peak of my abilities for maybe another five to 10 years. I've got to get everything in while I have the chance. Right now, I'm wrestling better than I ever have in my entire life. If I don't go for it now, then I'll never have the chance. You see, I enjoy the traveling and I enjoy facing the best wrestlers in the world every night. And, by the way, I don't consider Bubba Rogers to be a great wrestler.

DAVE ROSENBAUM: Care to explain that last statement? Rogers is no superstar, but he's definitely improved his abilities and he's held the belt for longer than anyone ever thought he would.

WINDHAM: That might be true, but he'd be nowhere without [Gen. Skandor] Akbar's interference. He's beaten me a few times, but always with Akbar interfering. If you ask me, Akbar and Rogers are an embarrassment to the sport. In my eyes, the



Windham catches UWF champion Big Bubba Rogers in a sleeper. Aside from relentlessly pursuing the UWF belt and defending his own championship, Windham is a regular contender for Ric Flair's NWA World title.

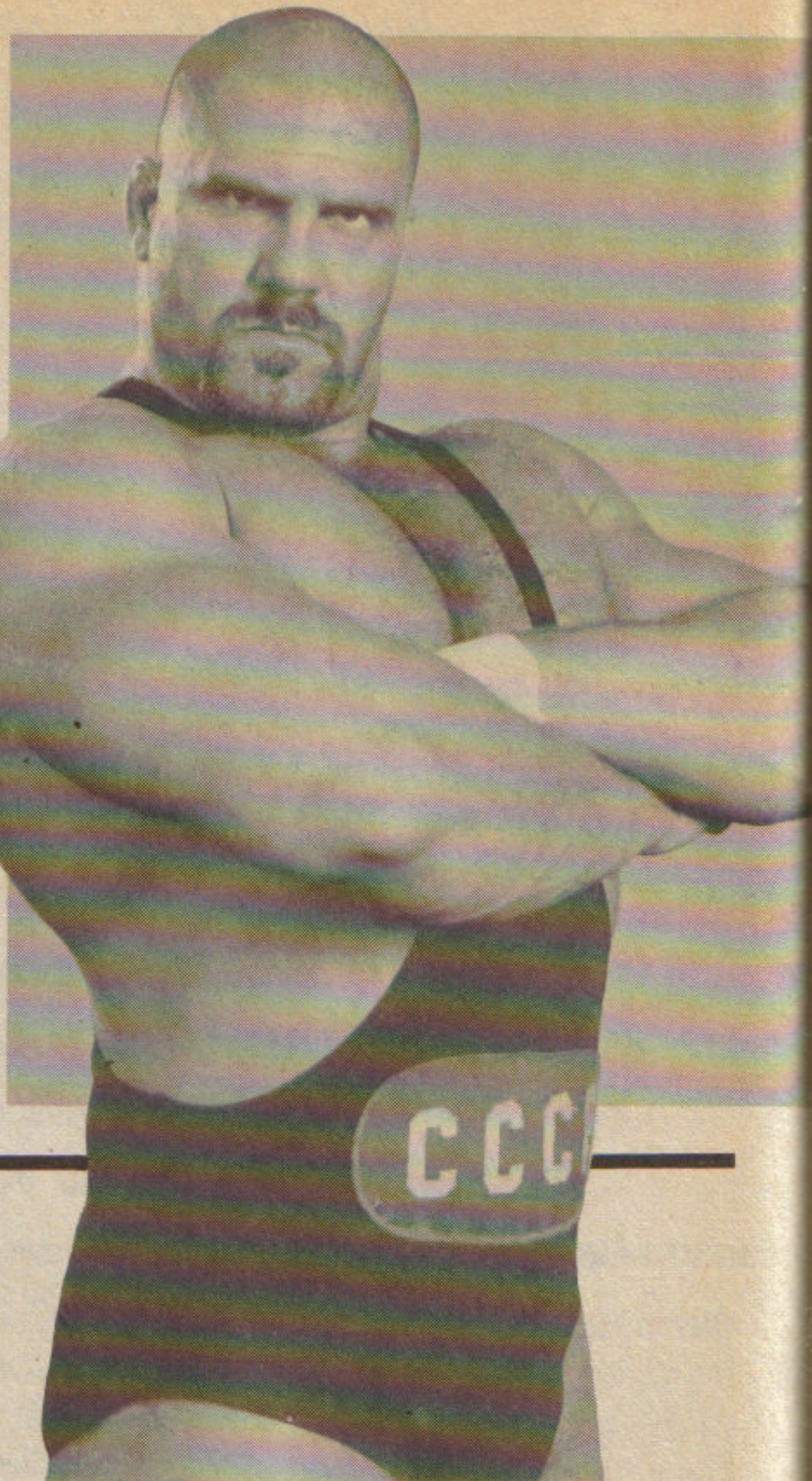
Western States title is the number-one title in the UWF right now and I own it.

CRAIG PETERS: That was quite a victory, to say the least. In the first round, you defeated your buddy Chris Adams, then you took care of

(Continued on page 60)



Lex Luger slams Nikita Koloff into the ringpost during a brutal contest for Koloff's U.S. title. If Koloff were to lose the title, would the pressure of failure drive him to once again embrace Soviet ideals and return to rulebreaking?



When The Going Gets Tough...

WILL NIKITA KOLOFF

WRESTLING FANS HAVE learned, by the very nature of the sport, to take nothing for granted, to be prepared for *any* eventuality. The villain of today can quickly become the hero of tomorrow, depending on events both in and out of the squared circle.

The events of the past few months, which saw Nikita Koloff's remarkable transformation from "Russian Nightmare" to one of the most popular stars in America, typify the unpredictability of the sport.

Nikita's new attitude was forged by 1986's best-of-seven series with Magnum T.A. for the U.S. title and tempered by his break with both uncle Ivan and the Soviet sporting establish-

ment. It became complete when T.A.'s auto accident made Nikita realize that Russians do not have a monopoly on human bravery. It now proceeds under the tutelage of Dusty Rhodes.

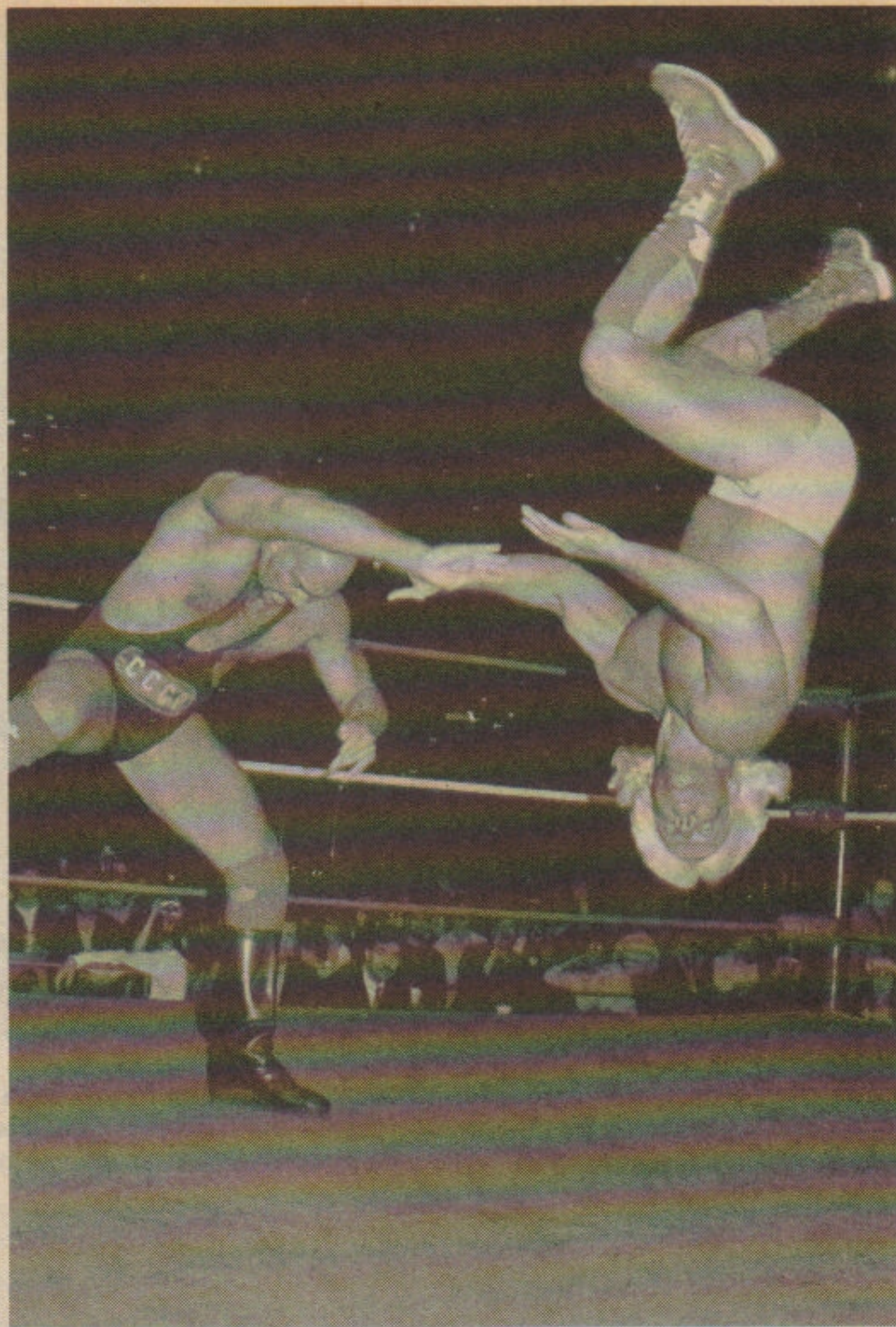
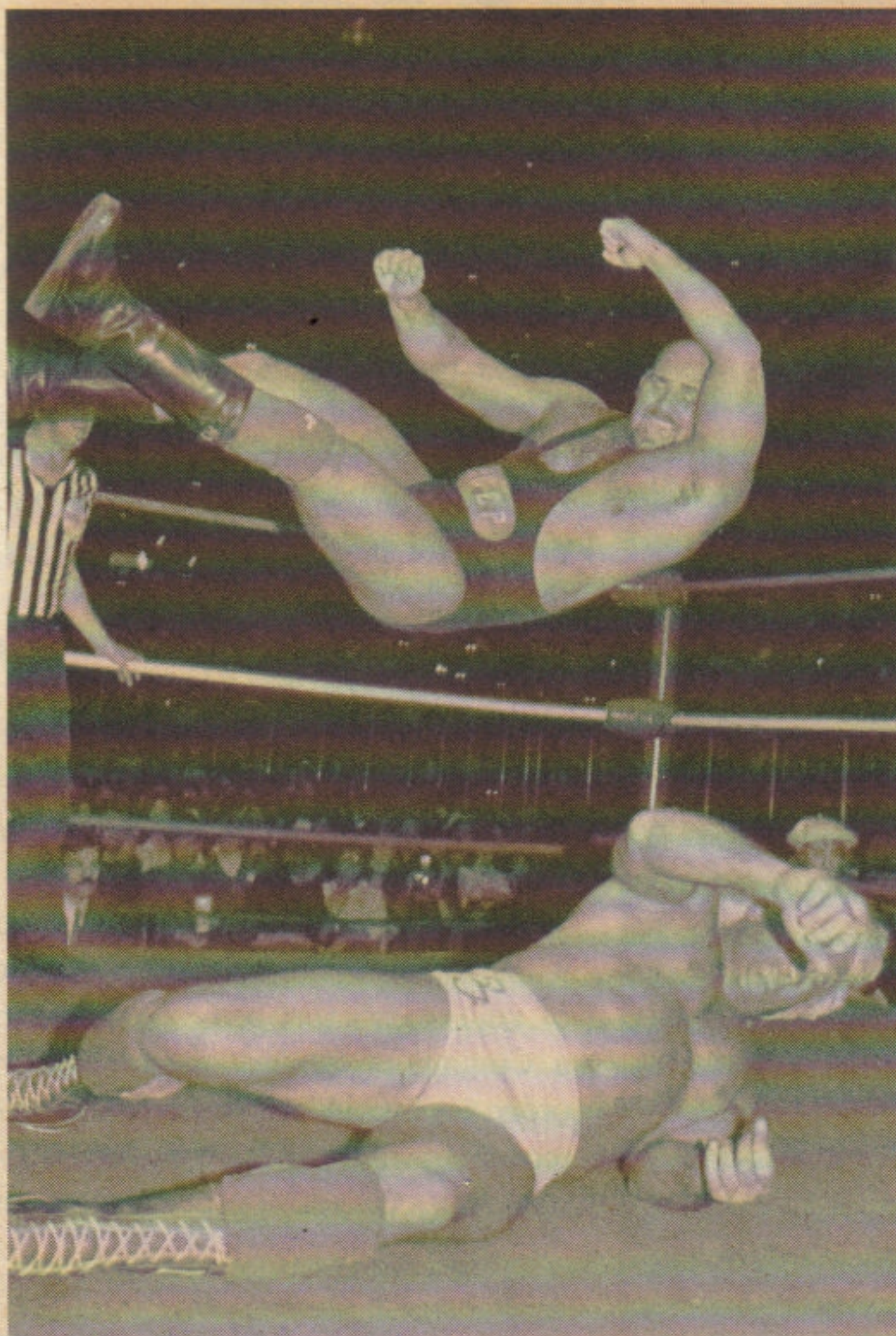
While some fans may have been skeptical of Nikita at first, he has been a model American citizen since his transformation, defending with honor the U.S. title he captured from Magnum. His popularity has grown tremendously, and the once-reviled Russian is now giving Hulk Hogan a run for his money near the top of the Most Popular rankings.

Yet the honors have not come without a heavy price. There would seem to be no turning back for Nikita, who has broken his ties with both country

and family. His Soviet passport has been revoked, and his generous stipend from the Soviet Ministry of Sports has been terminated. His family back home turned against him after he took on and defeated his uncle Ivan in a grueling series of Russian chain matches.

While Koloff's change of heart caught the wrestling world by surprise, his opponents have begun to rally together and plot countermeasures. Tragedy has often overtaken those who choose to walk in the shadow of "The American Dream."

For example: In the final match of the \$1 million Crockett Cup tag team tournament, Nikita and Dusty battled Lex Luger and Tully Blanchard.



Ric Flair rolls out of the way of Koloff's flying elbowsmash (above left), but soon finds himself deposited to the canvas with a powerful throw (above right). The fans have rallied behind Koloff in his battles with Flair.

TURN BAD AGAIN?

From being a despised and feared representative of a hostile power, Nikita Koloff has become one of the most popular wrestlers in the country. His skills and success are respected and admired by fans and pros alike . . . but will it last?

Nikita, already in a neck brace, was saved from a piledriver during the bout by Rhodes' timely intervention. But had Dusty been a little slower, or Luger a little faster, Nikita could have suffered a very serious injury, possibly paralysis.

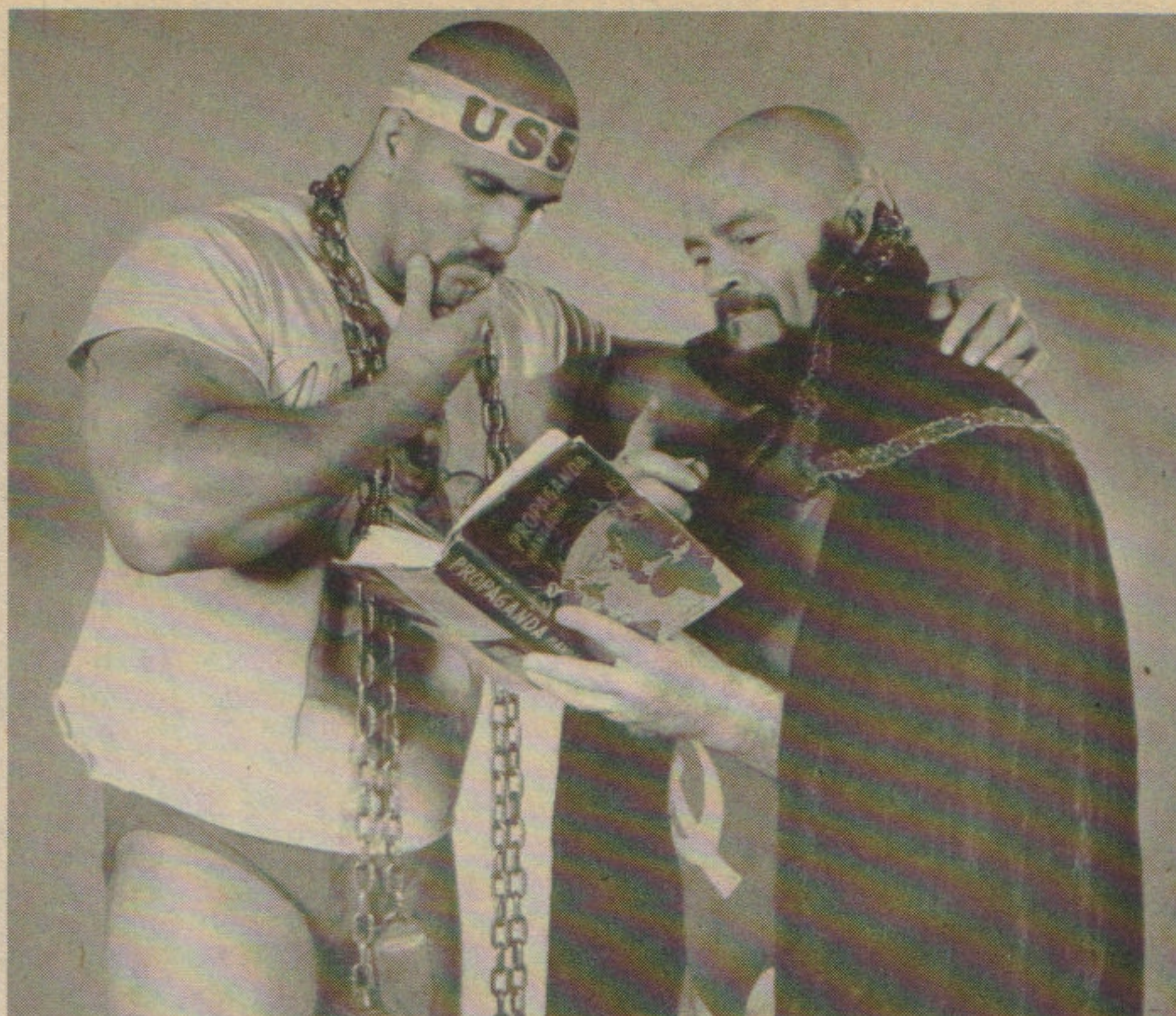
"I realize that I make many more enemies by teaming with Dusty," Nikita said, "but we in Russia have many enemies. It has always been so." It is apparent that Nikita still identifies strongly with his homeland.

"But now I am American," he replied. "I celebrate Fourth of July instead of May Day, eat real eggs instead of caviar, and drive flashy Japanese car I buy on credit. Now I realize how much Soviet propaganda about America is untrue."

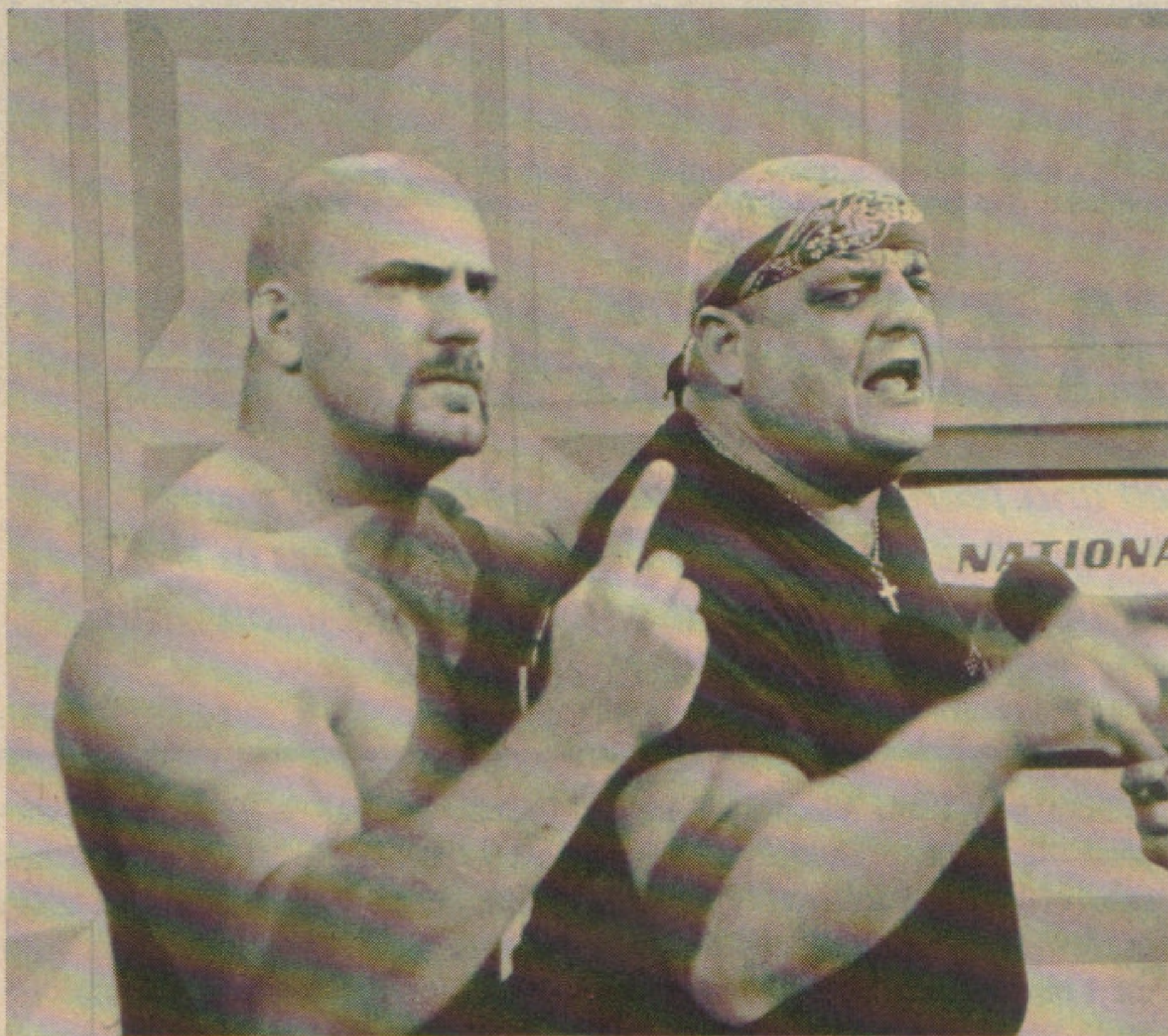
On the surface, all is well with Nikita Koloff. He seems very happy. But some fans and reporters continue to harbor doubts. The staff of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is evenly split between those who believe Koloff's

change of heart is genuine, and those who feel that Koloff's change of heart may be part of a large and sinister master plan.

"I wouldn't trust him as far as I could throw him, and he ain't no javelin," said veteran scribe Matt Brock, who lingered in Europe for a few years following the 1936 Berlin Olympics. "Remember the Nazi-Soviet treaty that unleashed World War II?" A few collegiate history buffs on the staff nodded their assent. "Well, that made



Nikita studies a textbook on propaganda with his uncle Ivan (above). Nikita once followed Ivan unquestioningly, but the mighty Russian has grown fond of his American independence. Now Nikita stands alongside Dusty Rhodes (below), and the duo known as The Superpowers has enjoyed great success. If that success comes to an end, however, Nikita might well wish to rejoin his uncle.



them our enemies, then they became our friends, and now they're our enemies again. I tell you, it's in his blood. *Russian follows ruse* in my dictionary. I wouldn't be surprised if Nikita and Ivan had it planned this way from the start."

Less obstinate was Managing Editor Craig Peters, whose outlook is elastic enough to accept Koloff's redemption. "Spending so much time with Dusty Rhodes, Nikita is beginning to think and act like a real American. The two are spending a great deal of time to-

gether both inside and outside the ring, and I think the more Nikita sees of American life, the more he will like it."

Despite opposing points of view regarding Nikita, the truth undoubtedly lies somewhere in between. Neither historical precedents nor good intentions apply in this case. The true test of the man will be determined by what goes on in the squared circle and in Nikita's own mind. If the support of the fans, the friendship of Rhodes, and the material rewards of America can fill the vacuum left by his loss of family, friends, citizenship, and country, then Nikita may truly become the latest of many foreigners to embrace to the American way of life.

But those born in this country find it hard to imagine the sheer multitude of adjustments that someone raised in a Communist country must make in order to live in America. Nikita has moved from a rigidly controlled lifestyle and society to a personal freedom that must be almost frightening in its scope—and that includes the freedom to fail. In the Soviet Union, everyone is guaranteed a job, no matter how unfit they might be. It may not be caviar and roses, but it is steady. In America, one can rise to greater heights, but fail just as resoundingly.

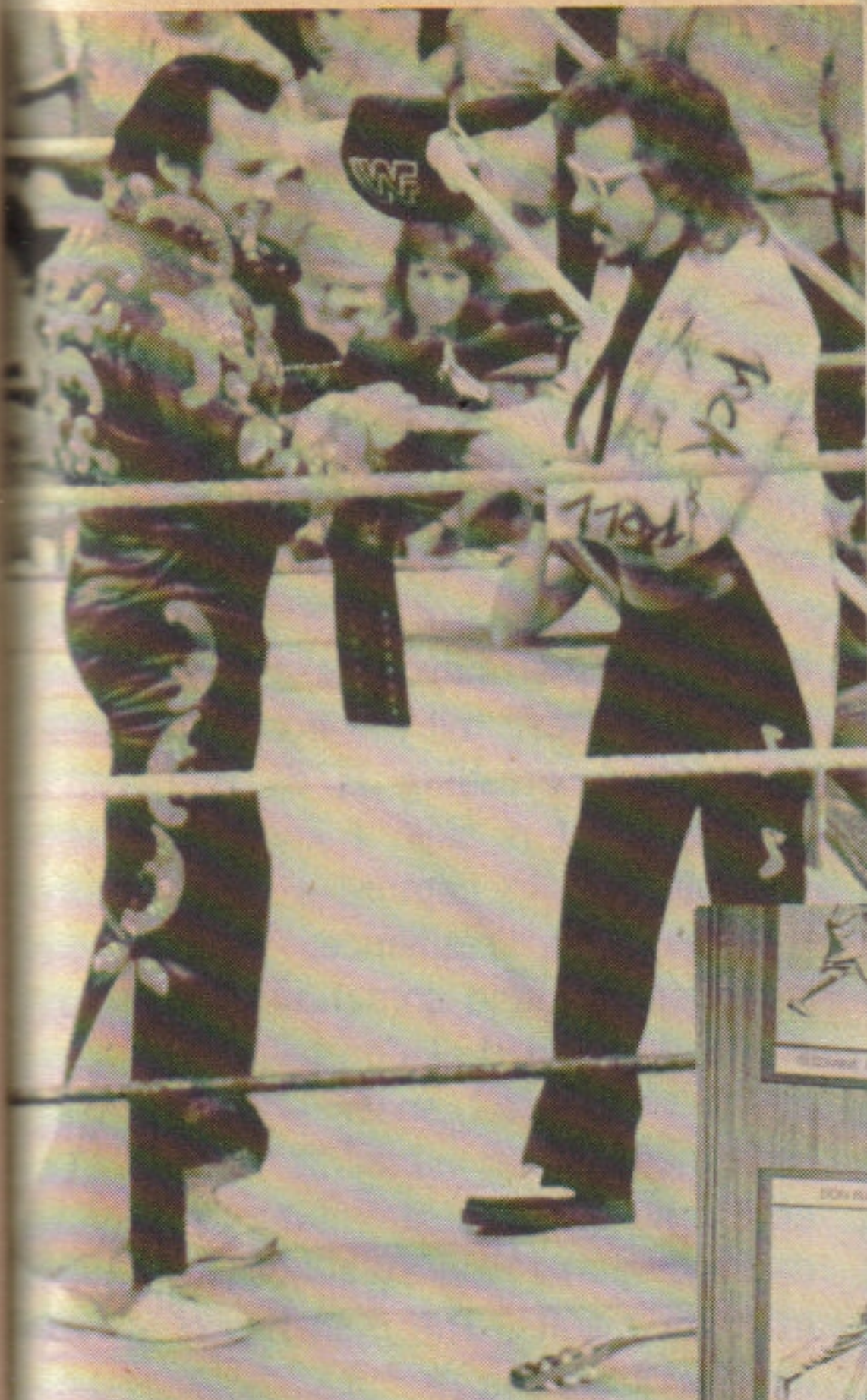
Other Russian defectors to the U.S.—politicians, spies, and professional athletes—have found themselves unable to cope with American society and have returned to the Soviet Union. Once back in Russia, and back in the government's good graces, they are free from reprisals. Indeed, the Soviets use these returnees as spokesmen to describe how bad America is.

Should Nikita run into adversity—a falling out with Rhodes or, worse yet, the loss of his U.S. heavyweight title—the pressures of such adversity might cause him to yearn for a return to the security of his previous lifestyle. Of his *Soviet* lifestyle.

Would Ivan take him back? Perhaps. Would Nikita revert to his rule-breaking ways? It's a strong possibility. Will it happen?

Only Nikita can answer that. □

Best Two Out Of Three: **JIMMY HART IS THE NEW "MANAGER OF CHAMPIONS"!**



Jimmy Hart tends to The Honky Tonk Man's Intercontinental belt (above) and poses with The Hart Foundation and the WWF World tag belts (right). That Hart's stable controls two of the three WWF championships is a major success by any standards.



"HE WANTED TO be famous, I'll tell you that," Jerry Lawler says. "But he couldn't wrestle worth a lick. He looked like a cartoon character in a pair of trunks."

"I don't care if he had 20 gold records," Jim Cornette says flatly, "he couldn't sing worth a lick. When we both managed in Memphis simultaneously, we'd be on the road and he'd start crooning in the car and I'd have to stick in a pair of earplugs. He was horrible."

"He wasn't funny in a conventional sense," Andy Kaufman re-

called in an interview before his death in 1984. "In fact, he wasn't funny in *any* sense."

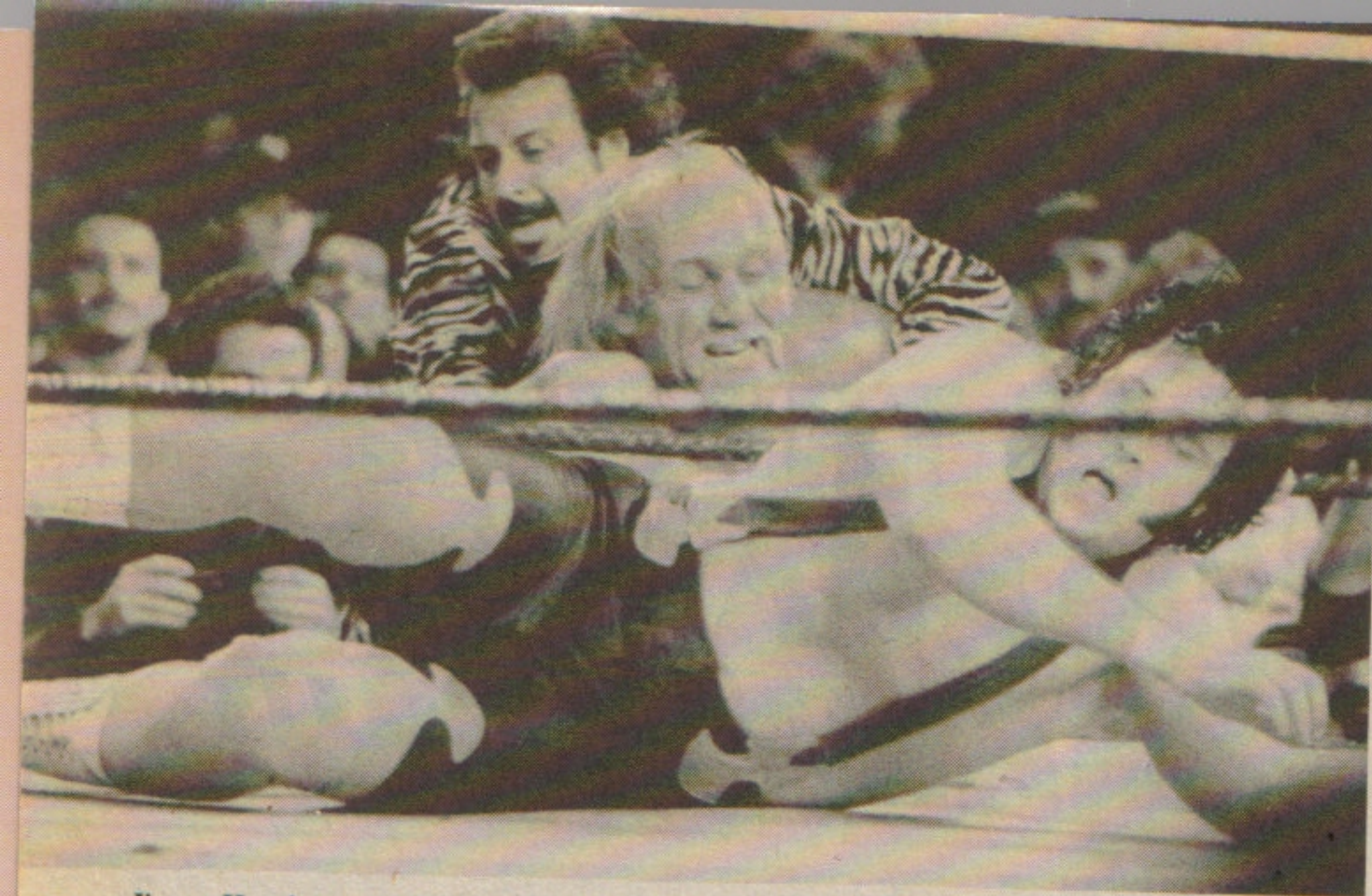
Jimmy Hart always wanted celebrity. He wanted to enter a room and have people stop and stare, not stop and smirk. A brief stint with the rock group The Gentrys in the late '60s flavored him for life—he would settle for nothing less than the fast lane of jet-setting glitz.

Hart took his package of mixed talents from the recording studio to the wrestling ring with mixed results. A feud against Jerry Lawler established his presence in Mem-

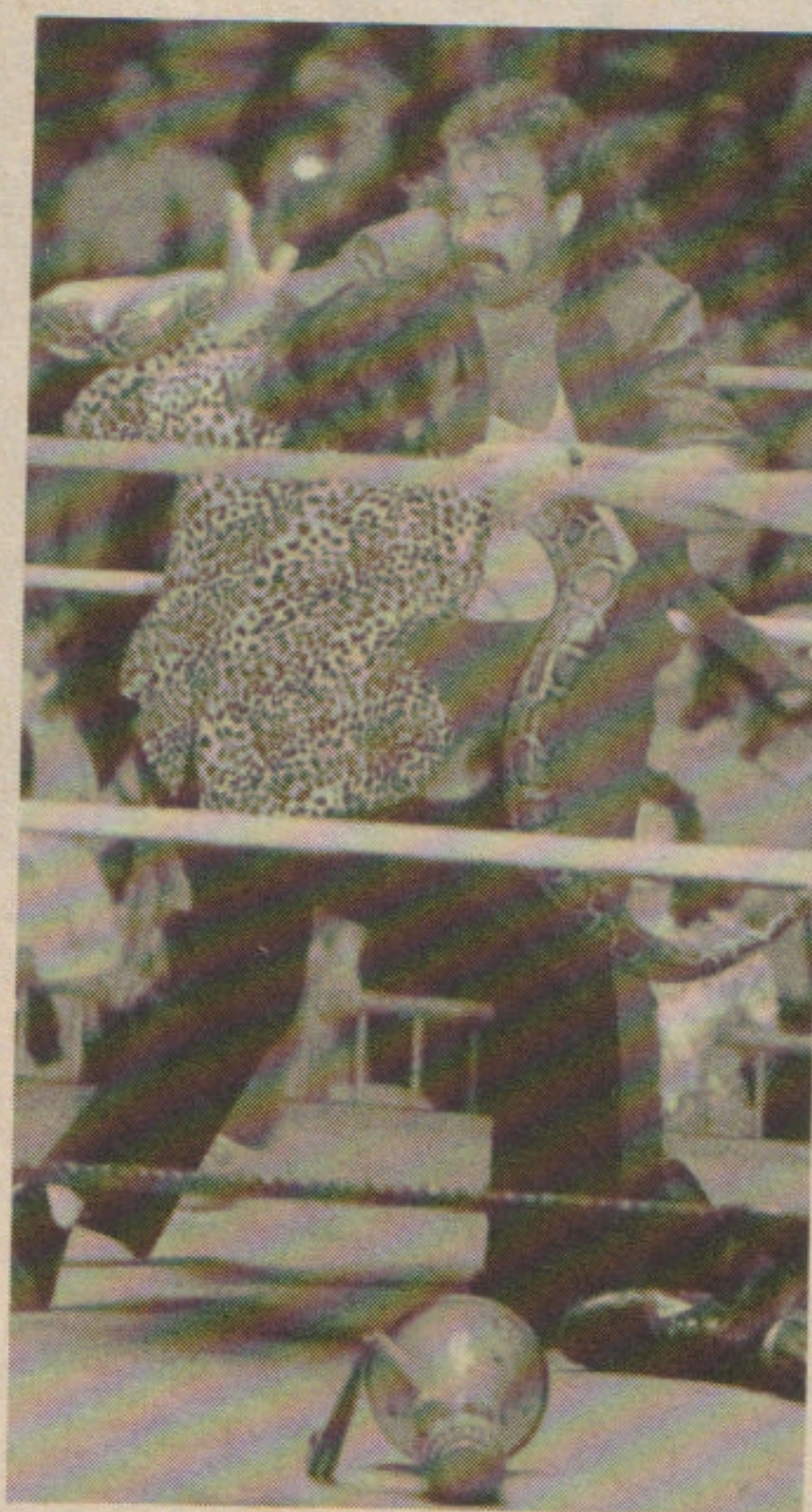
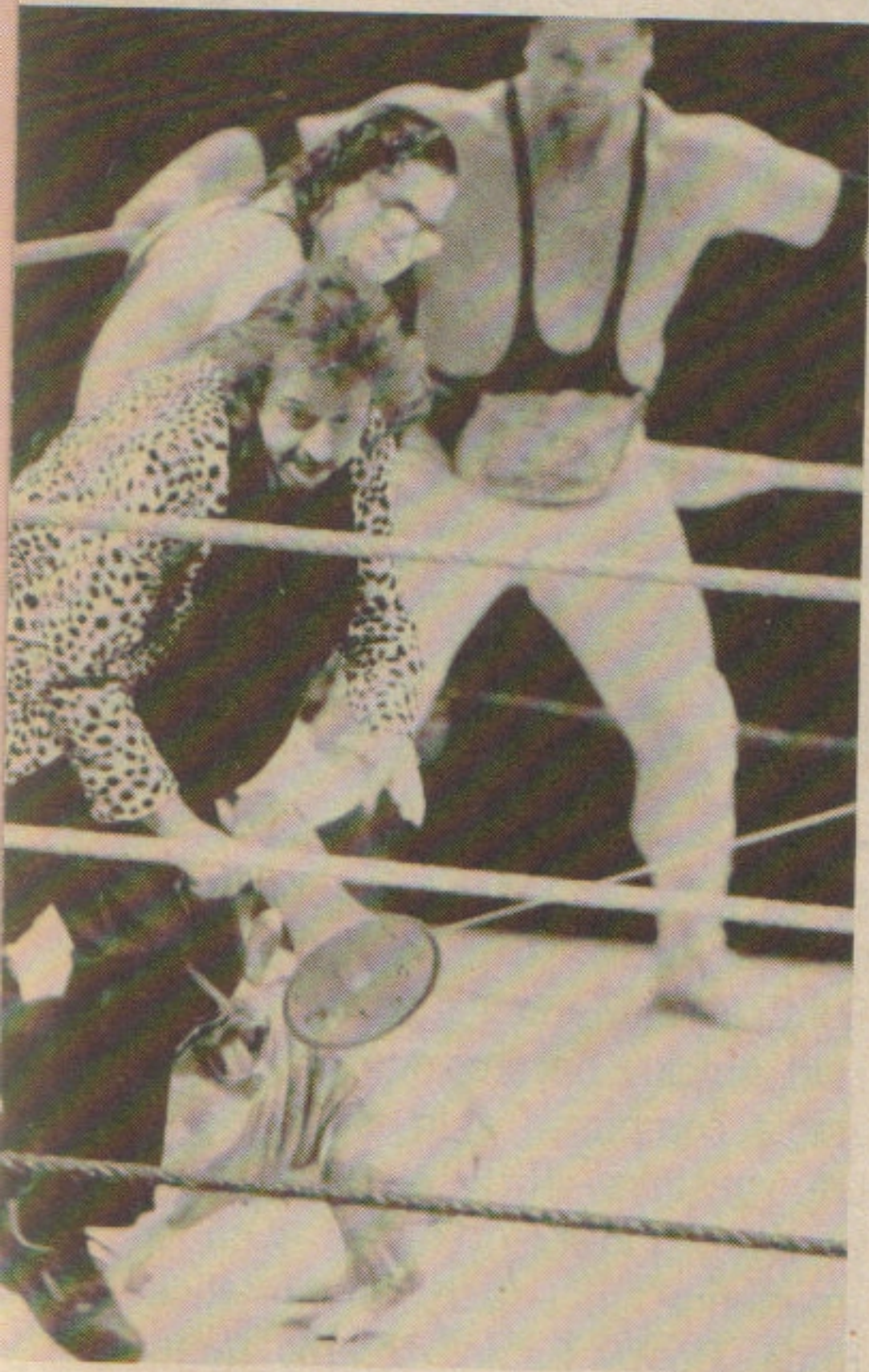
phis, although at parties he was still avoided. "The Mouth of the South," the appellation by which Hart quickly became known, ran a stable comprised of mostly mediocre wrestlers—Rick McGraw, Troy Graham, Plowboy Frazier—with a smattering of real talent—Rick Rude, Bobby Eaton, Tommy Rich.

Fruitless years were spent trying, but Hart was never able to displace Lawler in the ring or in the hearts of the fans. His misguided alliance with comedian Andy Kaufman—a final attempt to topple Lawler—brought more ridicule from wres-

As part of the '60s rock band The Gentrys, Jimmy Hart enjoyed success with a hit single, "Keep on Dancing." Twenty years later, managing two of the three WWF titleholders, Hart is enjoying more success than even he could have imagined!



Jimmy Hart is not what one might call a courageous man. He's been known to attack wrestlers from behind (as he does to Hulk Hogan, above), and to cringe in the face of mere animals, such as The British Bulldogs' mascot Matilda (below left) and Jake Roberts' snake Damien (below right).



tling critics, and left Kaufman in a neck brace for six months.

His failure to wrest the crown from "The King of Memphis" eventually forced him to travel to New York and the WWF, where in two short years "The Mouth of the South" has become "The Beast of the East."

And no one smirks at Jimmy Hart anymore. Indeed, grapplers the world over are begging for him to acquire their contracts (the list is

reputed by one source to be nearly 100 names long). His deft management of The Honky Tonk Man and The Hart Foundation to, respectively, the WWF Intercontinental title and WWF World tag team title, has won him the respect of the entire wrestling community.

Says 1986 Manager of the Year Capt. Lou Albano (he's won the award three times): "Hart took three mediocre wrestlers going nowhere fast, whipped them into

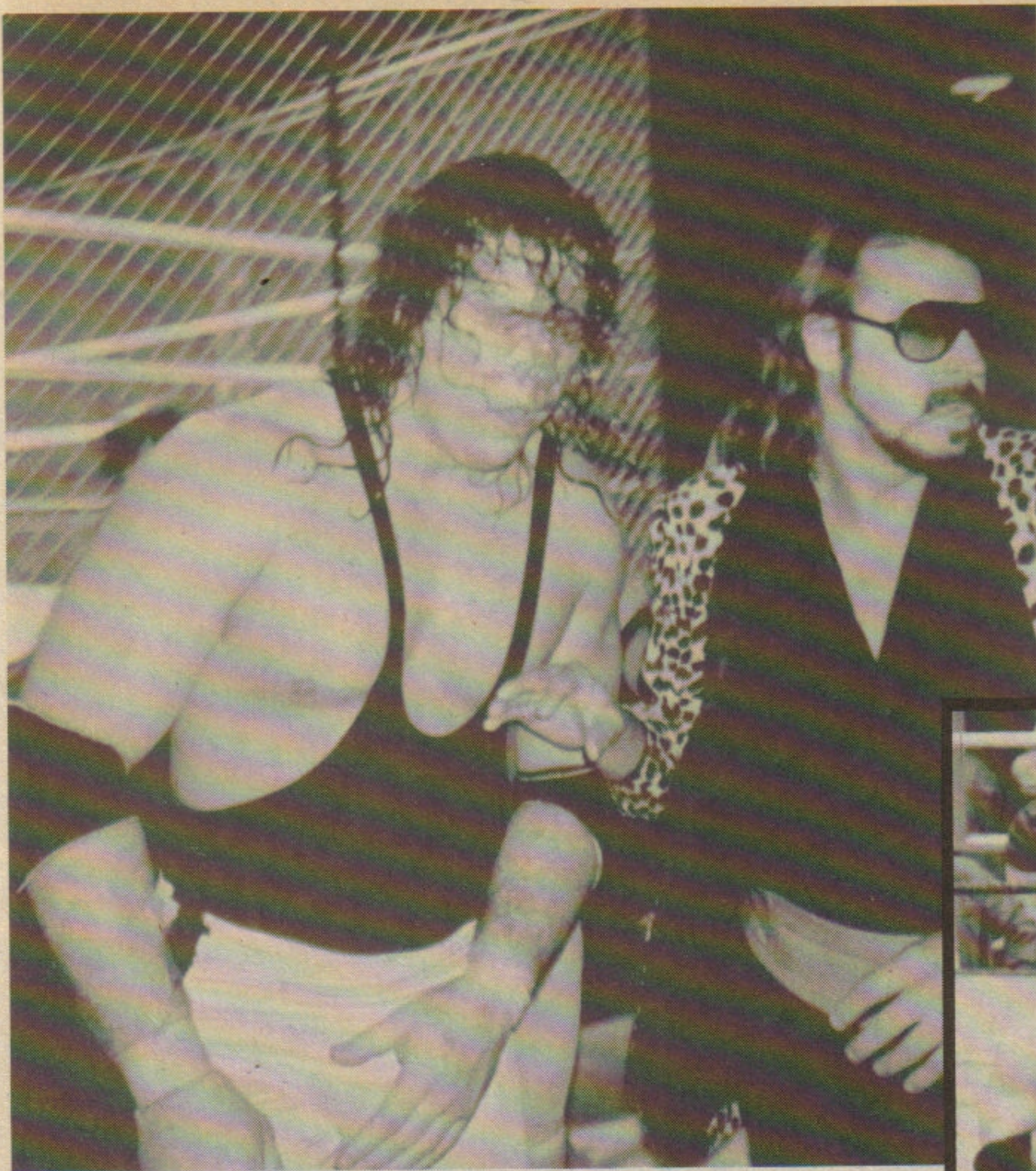
shape, daddy, and walked them into titles. His is a remarkable achievement. Wrestling is not like other sports, daddy, the Captain can tell you that. In baseball, a manager can win some games for you, but the team with the best players and the least injuries is going to win, whether you like it or not.

"I've managed more tag team champions than anyone else in the world, and I can tell you from experience that wrestling is as much strategy as it is skill. I know how difficult it is to capture a belt. It requires skill, resilience, shrewd management, and sometimes even a little luck. Hart, I don't like him a lot, he's a bit sneaky, but he combined all the elements together. His style leaves something to be desired, that's for sure, but the man got results. The man has gotten the job done."

If Hart is campaigning for Albano's "Manager of Champions" title, he makes a good case for himself. Orchestrating The Hart Foundation's rise to the top was a deft piece of managing. There is little doubt that referee Danny Davis was on Hart's payroll long before fans or federation officials suspected any wrongdoing. Yet Hart maintained the charade long enough for The Hart Foundation to defeat The British Bulldogs—in every way a superior tag team to his own—and win the title.

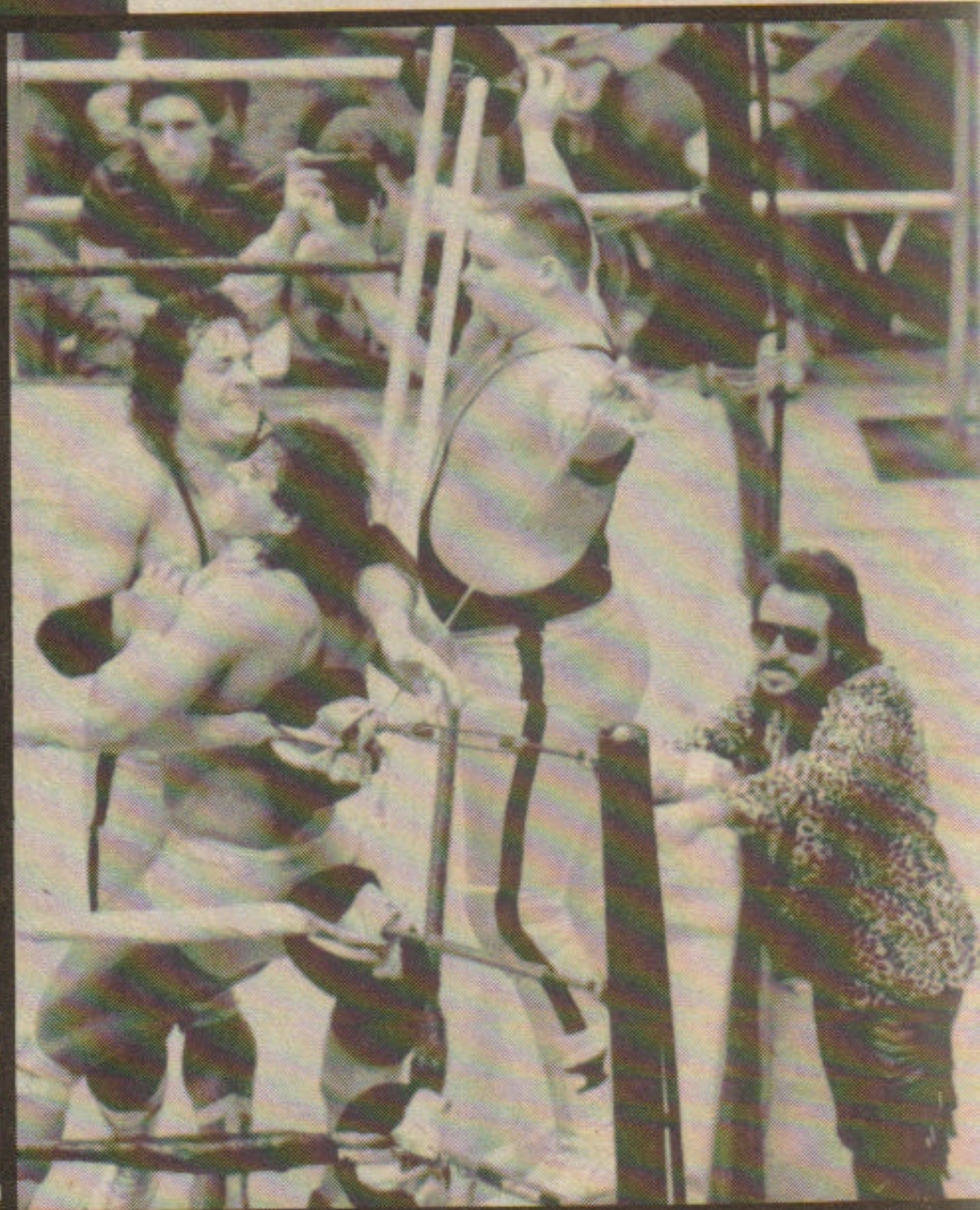
"You gotta remember, daddy, this is professional wrestling, not squash," Albano points out. "Results, daddy, that's the only true barometer of success. Don't get me wrong, you know, I loathe the man, I loathe Jimmy Hart, I detest his keeping Davis on the payroll, but remember that they were my Bulldogs he beat, and when you beat the best you've done something, daddy, you've achieved something significant, and on another level you must appreciate the way Hart goes about business."

Hart's greatest moment was yet

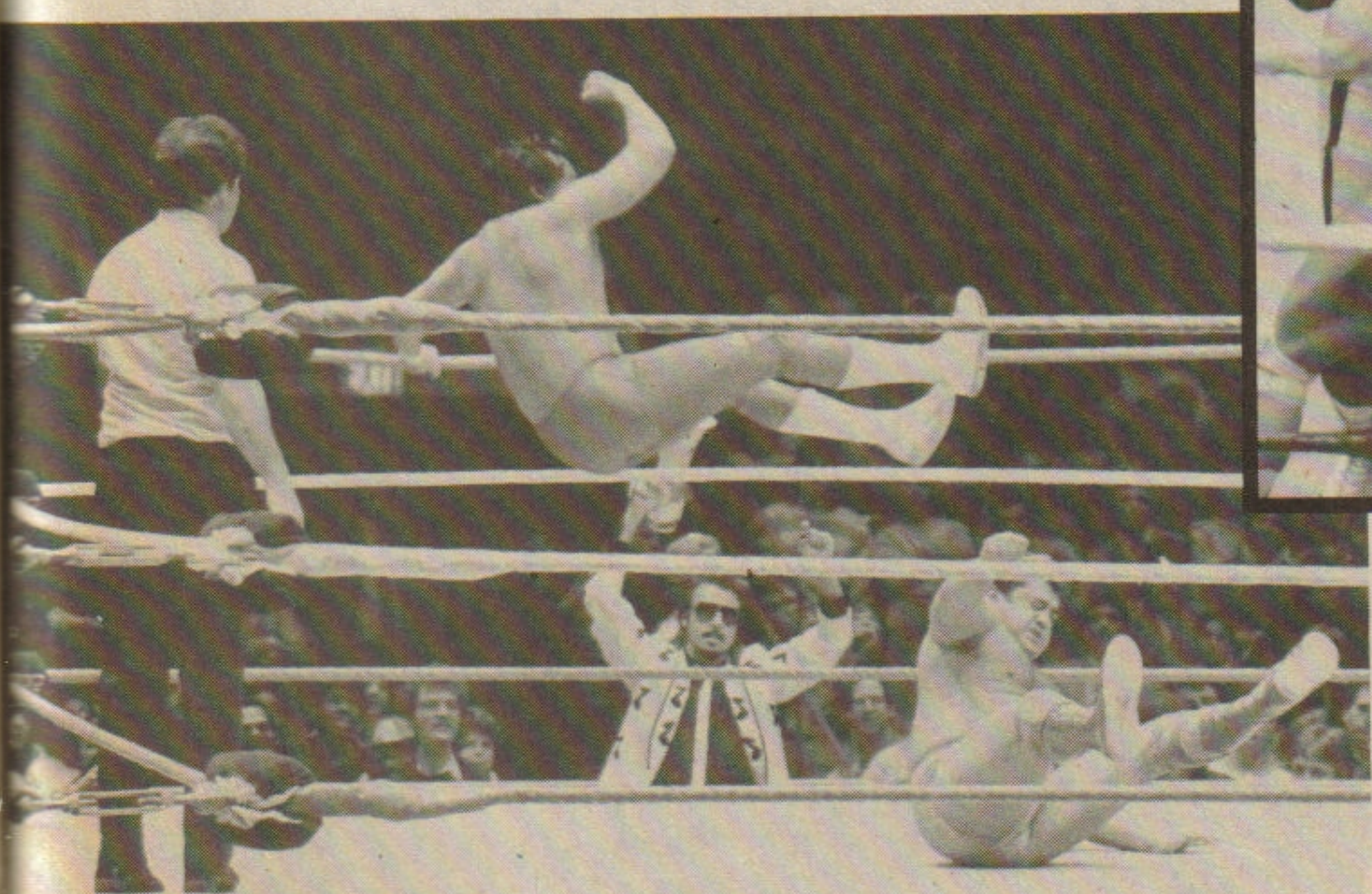


success is due to more than just his dubious ring tactics. "Sure, rulebreaking helps," said one scientific veteran, "but that's not it. Look at all the rulebreakers who can't buy a title. Hart gets more out of his men somehow. He *understands* wrestlers. He knows how to motivate his men."

It's generally known that Hart's payroll is among the largest in wrestling, on a par with megaspenders Jim Cornette. Is it that simple? Is a well-paid wrestler a successful wrestler? Hart isn't revealing any secrets. "He wants Hogan's title," says one source. "He



Hart is an ever-present sight at ringside when his men wrestle. He comforts Brett Hart after a bloody cage match with the Bulldogs (top left), advises The Hart Foundation as they corner Rick Martel during a title defense against The Can-Am Connection (above), and agonizes over Honky Tonk's immediate problems in a match against Pedro Morales (left).



to come. The Honky Tonk Man's defeat of Rick Steamboat is already touted as the biggest title upset in WWF history. Honky Tonk, a 14-1 underdog going into the match, had little trouble with Steamboat. Match films clearly show Honky

Tonk grabbing the ropes for leverage for the final pin, but Steamboat, conquerer of Randy Savage, would accept no excuses and has logged no protests; he was outwrestled.

Even Hart's enemies concede his


feels that would put him over the top. No one has ever managed all the champions in the WWF at the same time."

Three champions at once? Imagine the kinds of parties Jimmy Hart would get invited to then! □

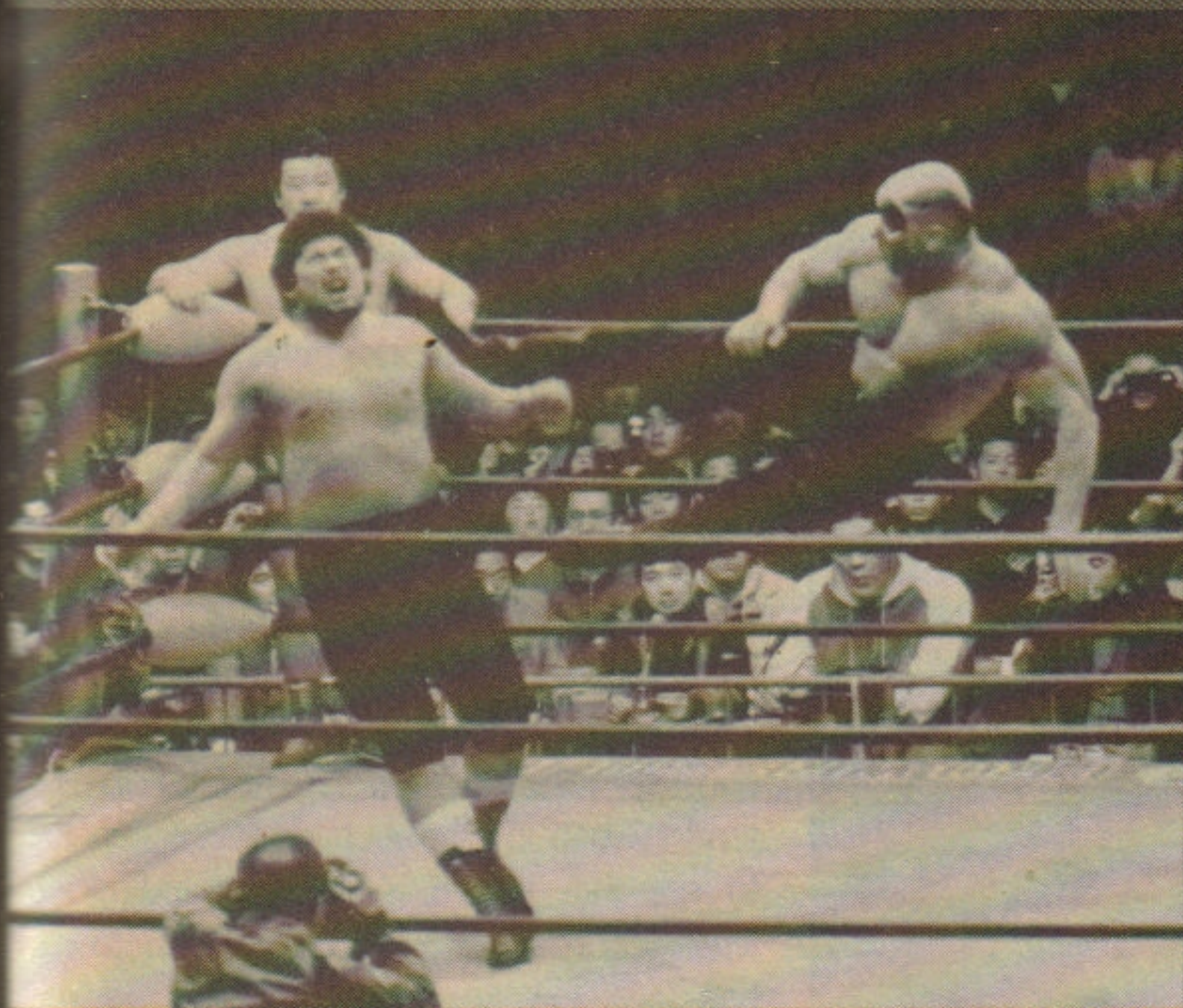


**Terror
Embargo!**

THE ROAD WARRIORS



The Road Warriors and their manager, Paul Ellering, pose with the All-Japan International tag team belts (above). During a recent defense of that title, Animal presses Takashi Ishikawa overhead (left).



[Editors note: Since establishing themselves as the most dominant tag team in the world, The Road Warriors have made regular trips to Japan and reached an extraordinary level of popularity. On March 12, 1987, Animal and Hawk won the All-Japan International tag team championship from Jumbo Tsuruta and Genichiro Tenryu in Tokyo. During June, the Warriors returned to Japan, where they defended the belts against several of that country's top teams, including Wajima and Tsuruta in Tokyo and Osaka. The Warriors were more dominant than ever before in these matches, and flew back to the United States with their title firmly intact. But upon their departure, Japanese wrestling officials planned to meet secretly and discuss The Road Warriors. When sources revealed these plans to *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, we immediately dispatched a team of reporters to cover the story. The following article was researched by Japanese correspondents Kyotuka Suzuki and Yusuke Yamaguchi and written by Dave Rosenbaum.]

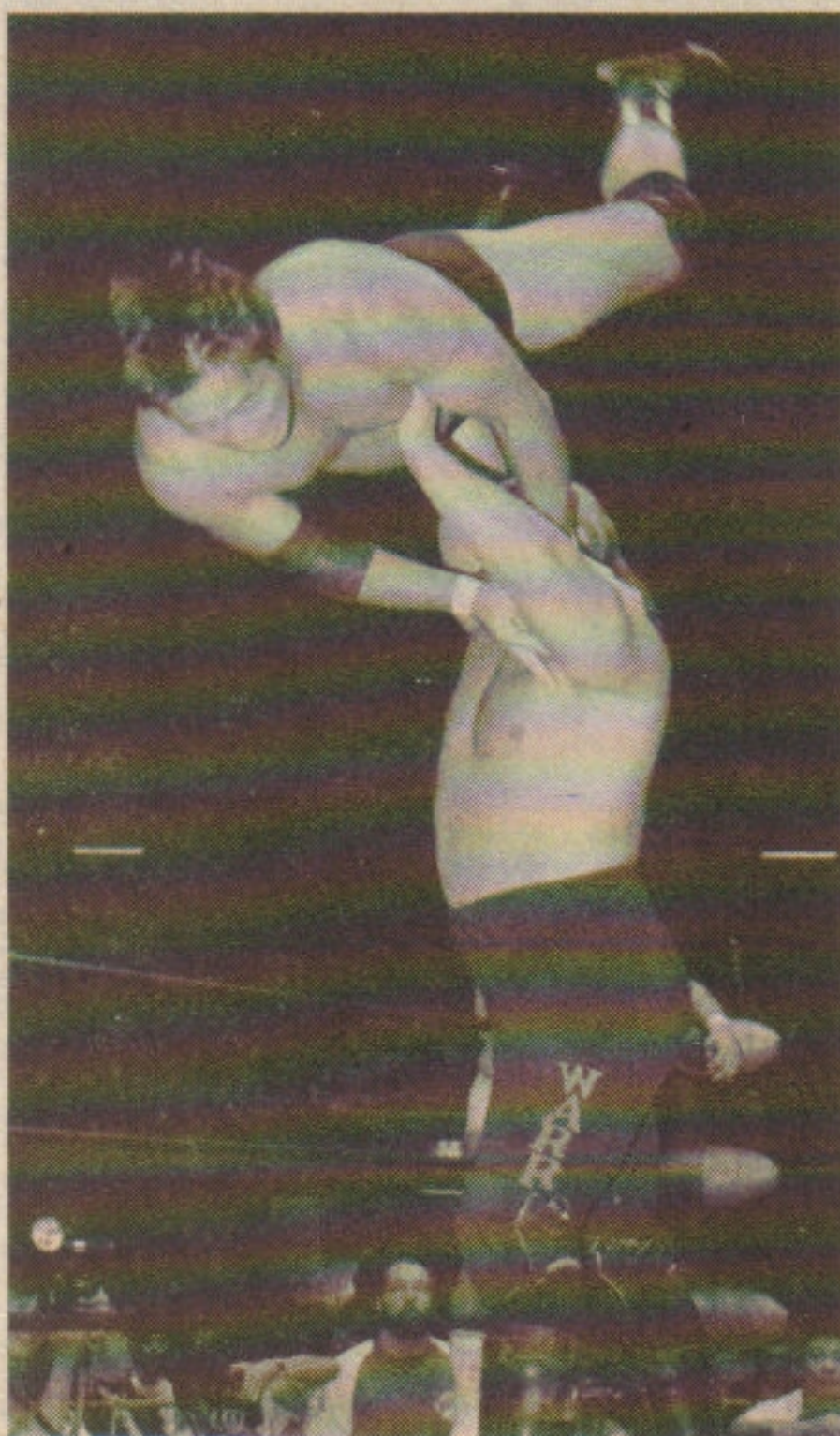
DECLARED TOO TOUGH FOR JAPAN!

The Road Warriors are the most popular tag team in the United States and Japan. They're also the most dominant. But Japanese wrestling officials are becoming less and less comfortable with the Warriors and have considered actions to ban them from Japan

DOMINANCE AND TERROR have earned The Road Warriors a place in wrestling history as perhaps the greatest tag team of all time. Animal and Hawk take great pride in their ability to thoroughly intimidate an opponent before they even enter the ring. But the Warriors might have finally intimidated the wrong people: the top officials of the All-Japan wrestling federation.

Following Animal and Hawk's departure from Japan after a recent series of All-Japan tag team title defenses there, All-Japan officials met for nearly 10 hours to discuss the possibility of rescinding the Warriors' standing invitation to return any time they wish. Upon confronting *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* reporters in the lobby after the meeting, shocked All-Japan officials refused to comment on the matter.

"You not supposed to be here," shouted All-Japan referee Joe Higuchi.

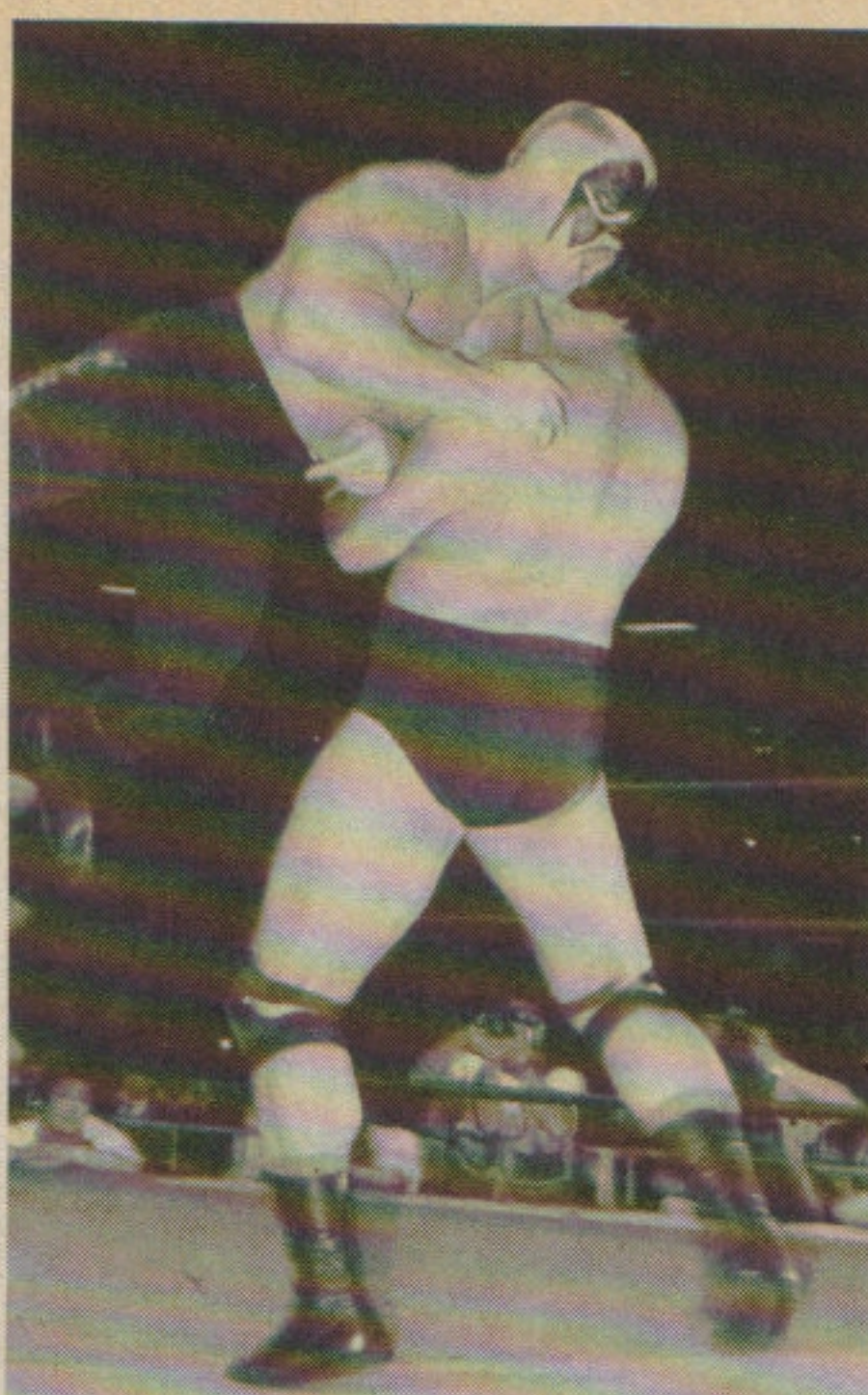


Animal throws Jumbo Tsuruta after a press (above). Hawk dropkicks Yoshiaki Yatsu while Yatsu's partner Riki Choshu look on (top).

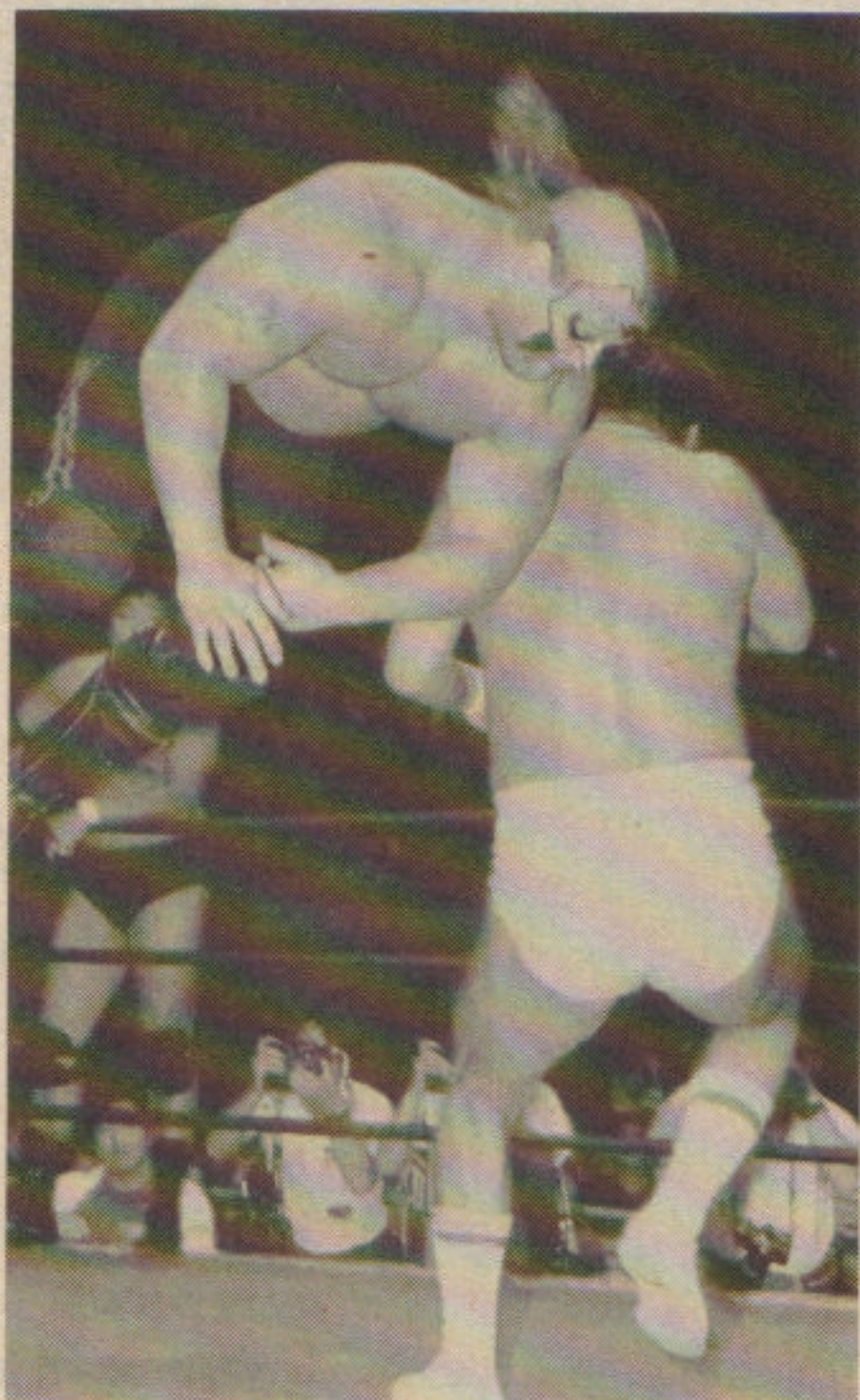
"This private meeting. It is very top-secret." When asked whether the meeting had anything to do with The Road Warriors, Higuchi said, "That is none of your business. I cannot tell you what went on. However, I can tell you that it was very important."

Upon further interrogation, however, Keiko Kusabyashi, a high-ranking Japanese wrestling official, told *PWI* that the Warriors were the main subject of the meeting. "The Road Warriors have posed very difficult problem for us," said Kusabyashi. "They are tag team champions and they very popular with the fans. We have difficulty, however, with their style of wrestling. We prefer much more scientific style. Warriors rely on brawling and western intimidation tactics. That is not consistent with our philosophy."

Kusabyashi would not reveal what actions All-Japan officials planned to take. But an anonymous source from



Several examples of why the Warriors' brutal style might get them banned in Japan: Animal delivers a high aerial elbowsmash against Wajima (above left), Hawk's flying shoulderdrive will send Tsuruta to the mat (above right), Animal's leaping shoulderblock stuns Wajima (below left), Animal attacks Wajima out of the ring (below right). The Warriors' merciless style worries many All-Japan officials, who would like to curtail the team's Japanese touring.



All-Japan, who was present at the meeting, said that the possibility of banning the Warriors from all future tours was discussed. "They are thinking of banning Warriors from Japan," our source said. "The only reason I tell you this is because I do not think this is right. They are great tag team and make us much money. Our fans love them. They should be allowed to stay. They should not be punished for their greatness."

From all appearances, All-Japan officials are embarrassed that the Warriors, an American team, are dominating the best Japanese wrestlers in their own country. Since World War II, American cultural influences have become increasingly apparent in Japan. American blue jeans, once a rarity, are now sold in millions of pairs each year. A recent Madonna concert drew a record crowd. The Japanese are very proud of their wrestling and do not

want to see it dominated by Americans.

"That is great problem," admitted Higuchi. "Japanese children should grow up with Japanese role models. They do not need to learn that American way is best way when there are very good Japanese examples. We are very concerned about that."

When informed about this meeting, Animal and Hawk became extremely angry. Manager Paul Ellering made several phone calls to Japan before commenting on the matter. "From what I've been told, your information is correct," said Ellering. "If they do intend to ban us, I will take every step to see that justice is done, including legal action. They have no grounds to ban us. They are interfering with our rights to make a living."

Animal, however, did not see legal action as a way to solve this problem. "Japanese yellow-bellied wimps, that's what they are," said Animal in fierce tones. "They wanna get rid of us, they should try and beat us instead of being a bunch of geeks. Hey Hawk, they say we're too tough, whaddya say about that?"

"Aaaarggggh!" responded Hawk.

Indeed, the actions being planned by All-Japan officials are unprecedented. Wrestlers have been banned from areas for violations of rules but never for being too good. And, of course, if All-Japan does elect to ban the Warriors, then what will become of the tag team belts? Having decided that the Warriors are too good, All-Japan's tag title would be rendered meaningless. There would also be a problem with the fans. How would they react to this messy situation?

Certainly, All-Japan wrestling has a problem on its hands, a problem that became even greater when *PWI* prematurely discovered their intentions. Now they are in the spotlight. There is no turning back. They must make a decision. Are The Road Warriors, indeed, too tough for Japan?

Apparently so. It now remains a choice for All-Japan officials: admit that fact, or allow their wrestlers to prove themselves where it ultimately counts—in the ring. □

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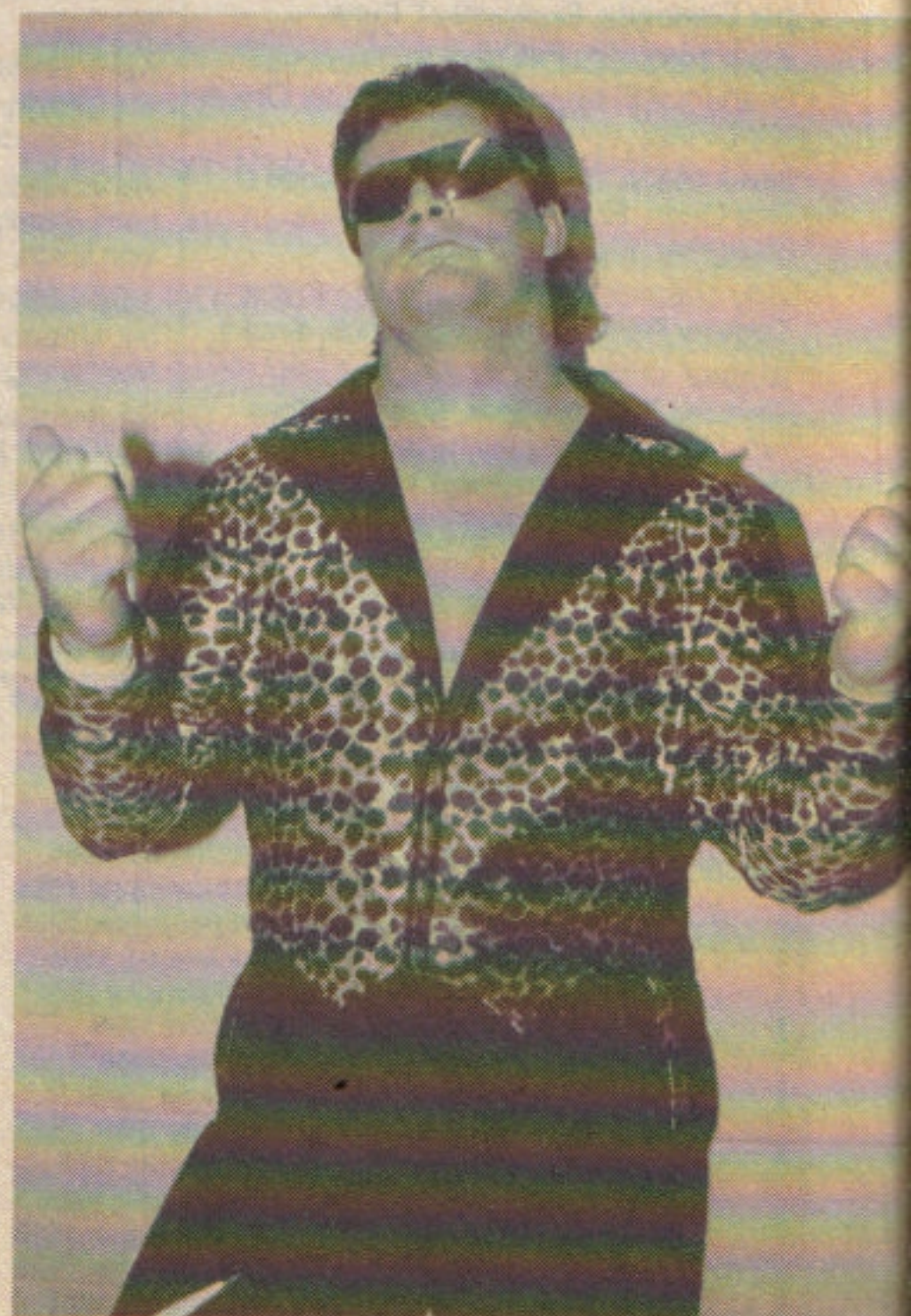
RINGSIDE

(Continued from page 10)

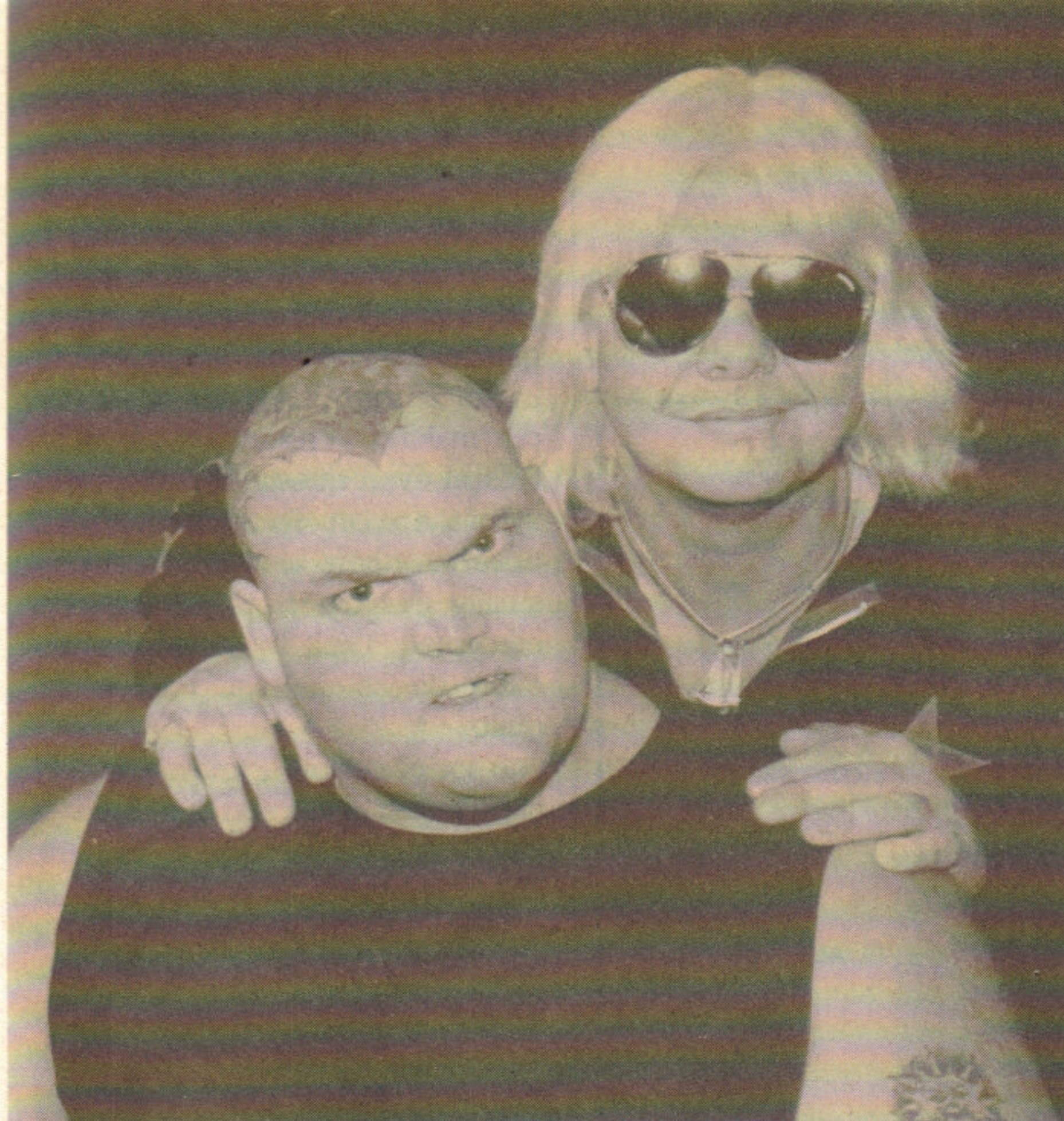
emerged with a baseball bat. He jumped into the ring, chased away the rulebreakers, and then, without saying a word to Mulligan, got back into the car and left.

Mulligan appeared more stunned by Sullivan's sudden appearance and exit than he did by the rulebreakers' attack. There seems to be no doubt, however, that Mulligan and Sullivan have formed a partnership which should result in an all-out war with **Sir Oliver Humperdink** and his men. But can Sullivan be trusted? He has acted very strangely lately, complaining of headaches and claiming that people are following him. His babblings about "the light side and the dark side" have become nearly incoherent. I don't know what will happen next, but I have no doubt that the Sullivan-Mulligan union could be enough to run Humperdink out of Florida.

Should **Brian Adias'** "oriental tool" be banned? Adias' secret weapon, which is a version of **Terry Gordy's** "oriental spike," has already seriously injured **Kevin Von**



Brian Adias' "oriental tool," a maneuver that has injured both Kevin Von Erich and Al Madril, may be banned. World Class fans are to make that decision through a special vote.



Bam Bam Bigelow, who is being courted by every manager in the WWF, poses with his former manager, Larry Sharpe. Bigelow and Sharpe suffered a bitter split when Bam Bam decided he didn't want to share any of his glory. Will any WWF manager fare better than Sharpe?

Erich and **Al Madril**. World Class officials have decided to let the fans vote on this issue. To participate in the balloting, write to: Ban The Tool, c/o WCWA, 1000 South Industrial Blvd., Dallas, Texas, 75207.

It seems like every WWF manager wants a piece of **Bam Bam Bigelow**, and who could blame them? The 368-pound superstar is one of the most impressive youngsters to enter the sport in a long time. After a year of seasoning, Bigelow appears ready to launch an all-out assault against WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan**. At press time, **Bobby Heenan**, **Slick**, and **Jimmy Hart** were all trying to become Bigelow's manager, but my guess is that the big man will go it alone.

Bigelow was managed by **Larry Sharpe** earlier in his career and the two did not appear to get along. In fact, Bigelow claimed that Sharpe was getting in the way of his career. Bigelow might be fierce and strong, but he's also a smart man. He knows that he can handle Hogan without a

manager, so why should he share the glory when he can have it all for himself?

Skip Young and **Tony Atlas** won the vacated World Class Texas tag team title by defeating **Ted Arcidi** and **Texas Red** in the finals of a Ft. Worth tournament ... Several title unification matches between Continental champion **Wendell Cooley** and Southeast kingpin **Dutch Mantel** have resulted in double-disqualifications ... Interesting news from Puerto Rico. WWC champion **Carlos Colon** and **Hercules Ayala** were so bloody after a recent match that both of them were carried out on stretchers. Also, **Lance Von Erich** has arrived on the scene and is feuding with **Terry Funk**. And **Tommy Rich** was disqualified in a match against **Abdullah the Butcher** for hitting the referee ... **The Midnight Rockers** left the WWF for undisclosed reasons after a very short stay.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! ☐

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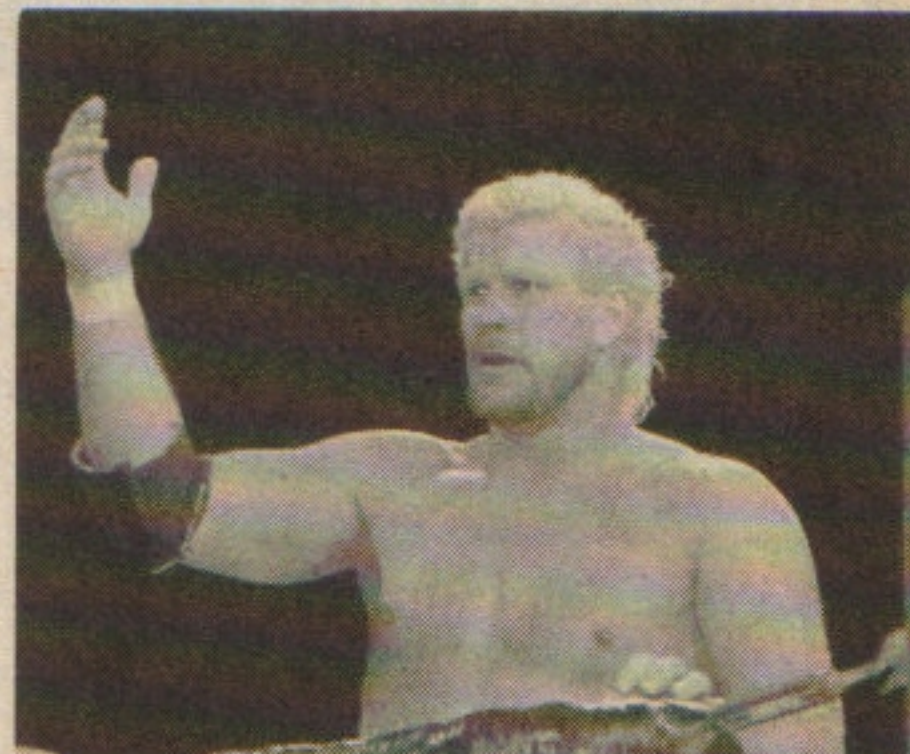
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FROM THE DESK OF

(Continued from page 12)

nothing to hide in that sense, in spite of what Stossel thought he proved with his so-called investigation. But there is certainly nothing to be gained by the news media making constant reference to Stossel even questioning the validity of the sport. To the uneducated observer, there is a very real possibility that the facts will be misconstrued. Guilt by inference can often be as damaging as actual guilt.

A lot of people I know are very happy that Shultz did not have to pay any part of the settlement. They resented Stossel's line of questioning and felt that he had a beating coming to him. I, too, resented Stossel's line of questioning, but I cannot condone what



David Shultz's ability to make a living as a professional wrestler has been severely damaged by the Stossel incident.

Shultz did. McMahon had every right to keep Stossel and his crew out of Madison Square Garden, and if he expected a man with Stossel's reputation to do a story in praise of his efforts to make wrestling a mainstream sport, he was in grave error. Since McMahon had given his blessing to Stossel's presence, Stossel was within his rights to ask any question he so chose. There are laws to protect that right, just as there are laws against belting someone.

Shultz wasn't "useful to go after from a financial standpoint," in the words of Stossel's attorney, Kelner, so he pays nothing and gives the appearance of having gotten off

scot-free. Again, though, appearances can be deceiving. The reason Shultz is not "useful to go after" is because the Stossel incident has greatly affected his earning power. Shultz has not worked for a major wrestling promotion in years. He has paid dearly.

We interviewed Shultz for *Wrestling 85* in May 1985, allowing him for the first time to give his side of the story. Shultz said at the time that if Stossel had asked him if wrestling was fake, rather than proclaiming so, he would not have done what he did. I wonder.

He was also asked if when McMahon told him to "blast" Stossel, as he had earlier claimed, if he perceived the order to mean physically or just verbally. Shultz' reply was, "You know, really just show him up." It was an incredible admission, considering the fact that he had already been named in the lawsuit, along with McMahon and Titan Sports, and that his statement was absolving McMahon of the blame. Later, during his pre-trial deposition, he testified that his answer to *Wrestling 85's* question was inaccurate. I wonder.

In fact, I wonder about a lot of things. I wonder if Stossel's injuries were really worth \$425,000. My ears also hurt when I hear a loud or high-pitched sound. I wonder if any major promoter will give Shultz the opportunity to make a living that a man of his talents deserves to make. I wonder if Vince McMahon will come out of his dreamworld and recognize the fact that he only has his wrestlers in his hip pocket, not the working press and the rest of the universe.

It's over now. And, as is usually the case, everybody lost something except the lawyers. Hmm. Maybe Vince can get the three of them together for WrestleMania IV ... a three-man mini-battle royal ... the winner gets a match with Melvin Belli, seconded by Jim and Tammy Bakker ... ☐

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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 31)



Shaska Whatley in the second round, and, with a little help from Adams, you pinned Black Bart for the belt. If Adams didn't alert the referee to Akbar's interference, you were a loser.

WINDHAM: That's right, Craig, and it just goes to show you the kind of man Chris is. After I beat him in the first round, and that was a pretty controversial decision, he could have been bitter. I mean, we both had our backs on the mat and I just managed to lift my shoulder before the three-count. It had to be a tough loss for Chris, especially after all he's gone through with Terry Taylor and, of course, the traumatic events of last year. But he was right there for me when I needed him. I'll tell ya, there aren't too many guys in wrestling like Chris Adams.

ROSENBAUM: What was it like wrestling your buddy in the first round? It must have been tough.

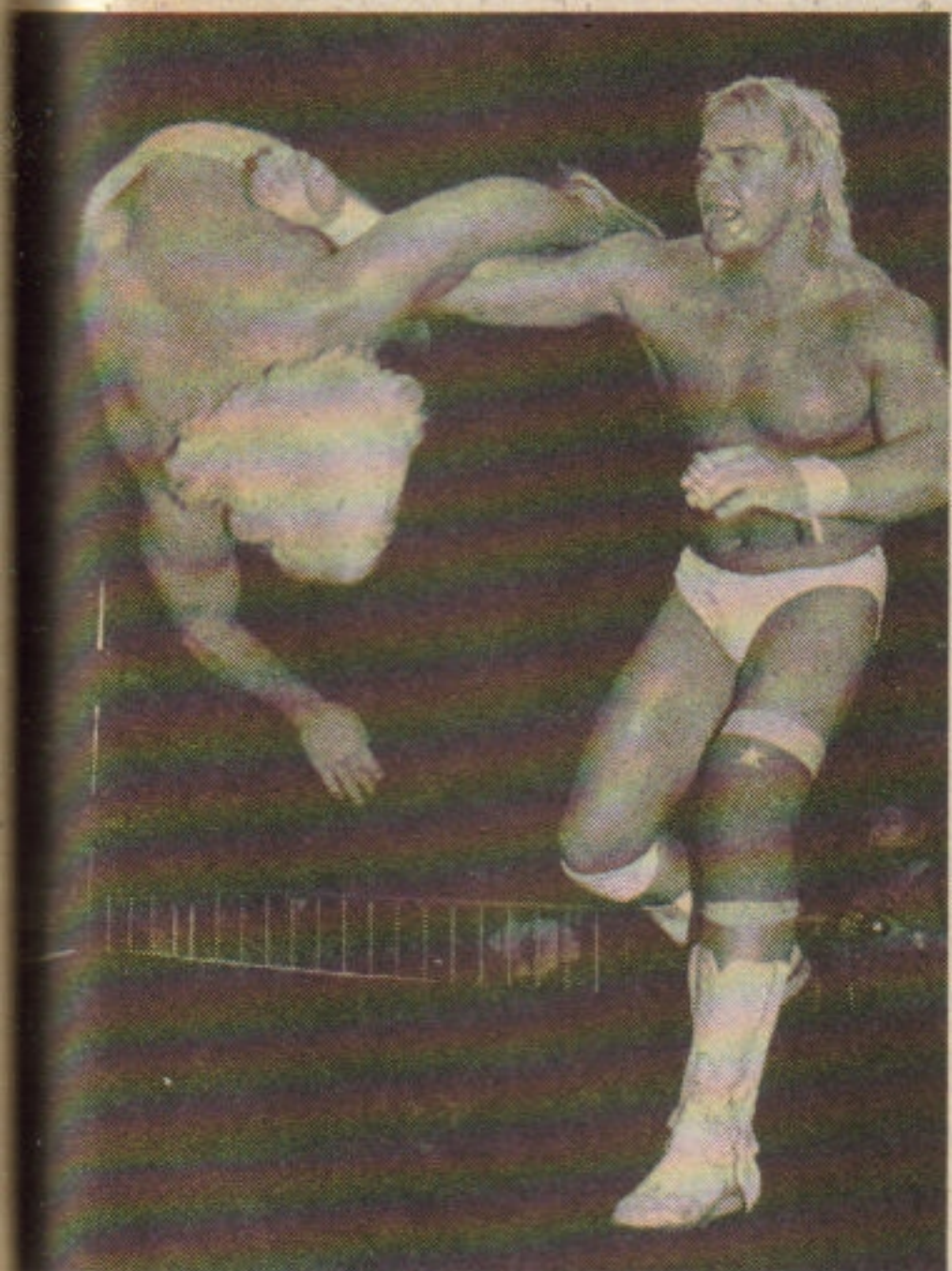
WINDHAM: Absolutely. You know, going into that tournament, I told a couple of people that if I didn't win the title, I wanted Chris to. Then, by the luck of the draw, we drew each other in the first round and that meant that one of us would be eliminated

right off the bat. That was unfortunate. On the other hand, I had the opportunity to go against a great scientific wrestler. Wrestling a gentleman like Chris was an honor, and he knows that a part of that belt is his.

APTER: You've also taken up the battle against Terry Taylor, haven't you? Boy, has that guy ever undergone a radical change!

WINDHAM: From what I've heard, Terry Taylor used to be a great guy, although he was always a bit of an egotist. All I know is that Taylor is a total scum, and that goes for his buddy Eddie Gilbert, too. I'm gonna get Taylor and I'm gonna get Gilbert, too. Those guys do nothing but set a bad example. They're the kind of people who ruin wrestling.

RODRIGUEZ: You've mentioned the triple crown of wrestling, meaning the Western States title, the UWF belt, and the NWA World championship. Do you really think you have a chance to win all three?



Windham pulls Black Bart off the mat during the finals of the Western States title tournament (opposite page). He throws Flair across the ring (above). Windham believes he has a legitimate shot at winning the Western States, UWF, and NWA titles—a wrestling "Triple Crown."

WINDHAM: Well, it's a tough task, to say the least. I'm not gonna sit here and tell you that I have a good chance to win all three. But let's put it this way, I have a better chance than any-

(Continued on page 62)

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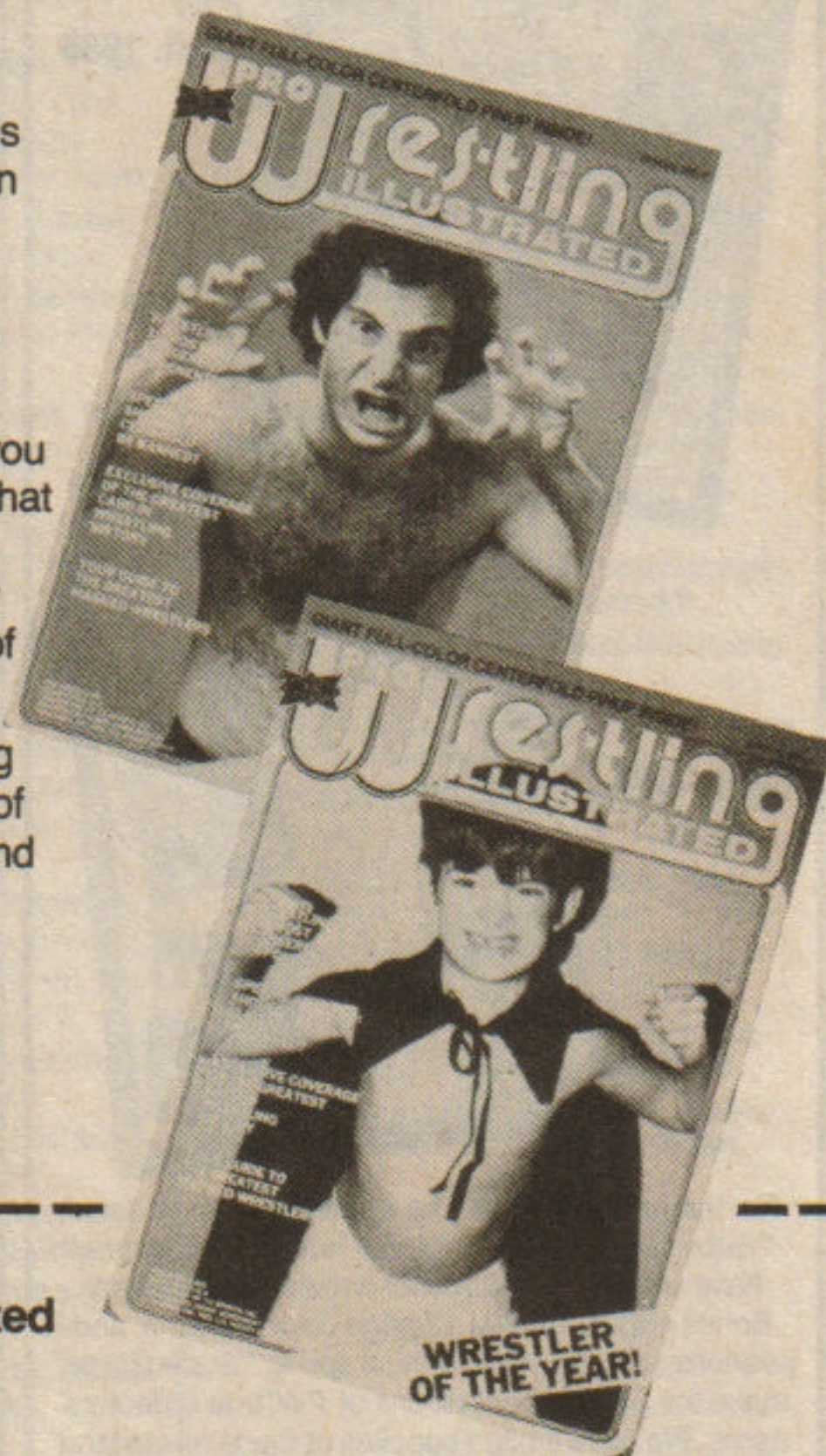
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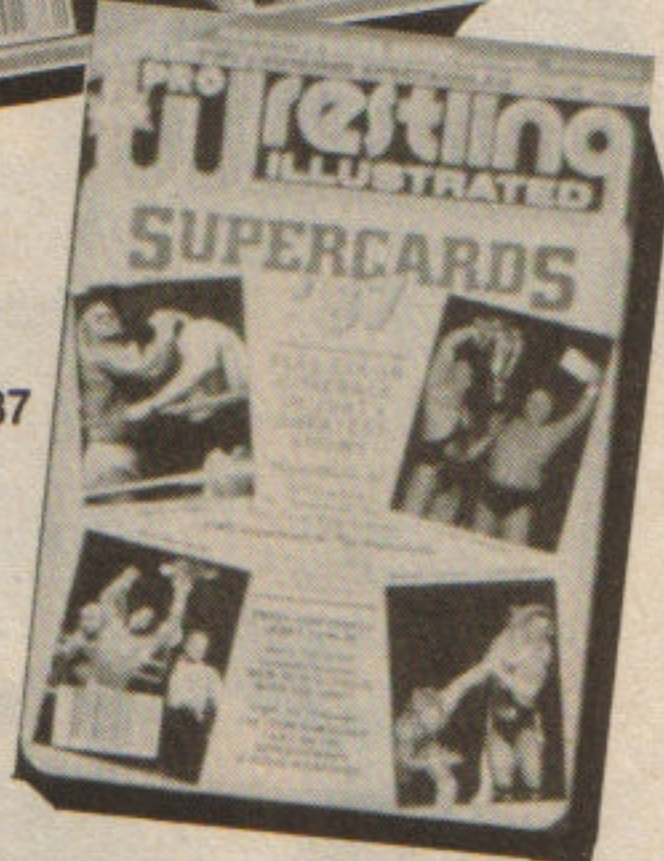
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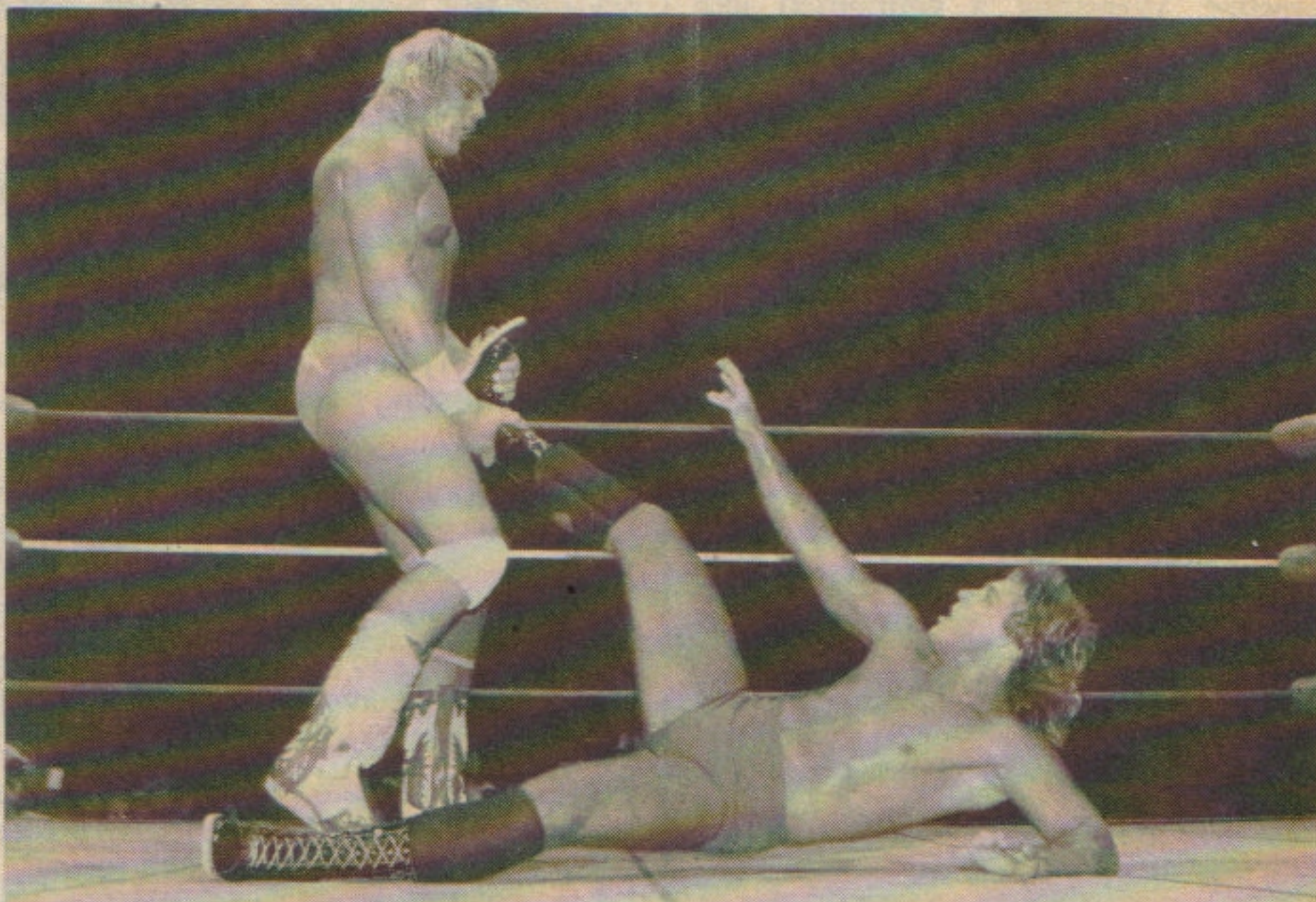
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PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 61)



Terry Taylor begs Windham to let him go. Windham says he despises both Taylor and Eddie Gilbert for what they've done to men like Chris Adams, Windham's good friend. Adams actually helped Windham win his title.

one else. I already have the Western States belt and I'm the only one going after the other two, so nobody can win it besides me. A person who sets his goals low isn't going to get anywhere. I set my goals high and I try to reach them. That's the only way I know.

PETERS: In reality, though, it looks like Flair has been handling you pretty well lately. Back in January and February, you seemed to have a pretty good shot at winning the title from Flair, but he's only getting stronger.

WINDHAM: That's probably true, Craig. I'm not gonna make any bones about this. I hate Ric Flair. I despise the man and the way he acts. He's a horrible example as a champion. But I have no choice but to respect his abilities as a wrestler. He's probably the toughest opponent I've ever faced. In fact, he's definitely the toughest opponent I've ever faced. The man finds ways to beat you, but he also finds ways to protect his title when he's hopelessly beaten. That's the Ric Flair I can't respect, the one who runs and hides or depends on his Four Horsemen friends interfering.

APTER: Let's change the subject for a

moment. Your brother, Kendall, is now in the World Championship area. You must be enjoying that.

WINDHAM: Definitely. For a while I was up here and he was in Florida and we hardly saw each other. Now we're often wrestling on the same cards and we even team up with each other once in a while. Let me tell you something, Bill, I'd give up everything to win a tag team title with my brother. I'd love to beat The Midnight Express for those U.S. belts.

ROSENBAUM: There's also quite a bit going on with your father, Blackjack Mulligan, down in Florida. From the looks of things, he'll be teaming with Kevin Sullivan, a former enemy of yours.

WINDHAM: Things have definitely changed down in Florida. I never thought I'd see the day when my father would team with Kevin Sullivan, but I spoke to Dad the other day and he says that Sullivan's honestly changed. I'm not so sure of that, but Dad has been in this game a lot longer than I have. He's older and wiser. Whatever he does is fine with me. I'm sure he'll do the right thing. That's something we Windhams always try to do. ☐



This special feature is for all fans who want to know who won and who lost . . . and how. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will print eyewitness reports from correspondents who attend the matches. If you'd like to have your correspondent report printed in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, send it to: *Arena Report*; PWI, Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

AMARILLO CIVIC CENTER (Amarillo, TX): Shaska Whatley and Shane Douglas battled to a time-limit draw . . . Bob Bradley defeated The Terminator by disqualification . . . Gary Young & The Enforcer pinned Jeff Raitz & Davey Haskins . . . Black Bart pinned Steve Cox . . . Bubba Rogers defeated Bob Bradley & Jeff Raitz in a handicap match . . . The Lightning Express defeated Rick Steiner & Sting . . . Eddie Gilbert defeated Chris Adams . . . Steve Williams and Dick Murdoch battled to a double-disqualification.

—Billy B. Bayler

CAJUN DOME (Lafayette, LA): Rick Steiner pinned Davey Haskins . . . Sting destroyed Bob Bradley . . . The Freebirds beat Shaska Whatley, The Enforcer, & Gary Young . . . Big Bubba destroyed Steve Cox . . . Brad Armstrong & Tim Horner defeated The Angel of Death & The Terminator . . . Chris Adams defeated Black Bart via reverse decision . . . Steve Williams & Barry Windham defeated Eddie Gilbert & Dick Murdoch . . . Ric Flair defeated Dusty Rhodes by disqualification.

—Erich Braithwaite

CHARLESTON CIVIC CENTER (Charleston, WV): Rick Nelson pinned Dexter Wescot . . . Nelson Royal defeated Larry Stevens . . . Denny Brown beat Thunderfoot II . . . Rocky King pinned Thunderfoot I . . . The Italian Stallion defeated Mike Force . . . The New Breed beat Jimmy Valiant & Lazor-Tron in a Texas tornado match . . . Manny Fernandez defeated Robert Gibson in a lumberjack match . . . Tully Blanchard and Ricky Morton battled to a time-limit draw.

—David Marsh

CITY COLISEUM (Austin, TX): Skip Young pinned Cowboy Tony . . . Tony Atlas wrestled to a 20-minute time-limit draw with Al Perez . . . Steve Simpson & The Spoiler defeated The Rock 'n' Roll RPMs . . . Len Denton defeated Matt Borne by countout when Borne chased Percy Pringle out of the arena . . . Eric Embry & Frankie Lancaster defeated Tommy Rogers & Bobby Fulton in a non-title match after Fulton was unable to continue be-

cause of a head injury . . . Al Madril beat Brian Adias in a first blood match.

—Danny Rerucha

GREENVILLE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM (Greenville, SC): The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated Lex Luger & Arn Anderson in controversy when Luger had Gibson pinned as Morton had Anderson pinned . . . Barry Windham and Tully Blanchard battled to a 20-minute time-limit draw . . . The Midnight Express and Jim & Ronnie Garvin were counted out . . . Ragin' Bull defeated Denny Brown . . . Vladimir Petrov pinned Todd Champion . . . Kendall Windham pinned Gladiator II . . . Lazor-Tron defeated Gladiator I . . . The M.O.D. Squad defeated The Southern Boys.

—Jeff Auerhamer

JOE LOUIS ARENA (Detroit, MI): Harley Race beat Koko B. Ware . . . Jim Powers & Paul Roma destroyed The Shadows . . . The Honky Tonk Man defeated Cpl. Kirchner . . . The British Bulldogs defeated The Hart Foundation by disqualification . . . Brad Rheingans defeated Terry Gibbs . . . Hulk Hogan defeated Kamala by disqualification.

—Mike Racette

MEADOWLANDS ARENA (East Rutherford, NJ): Koko B. Ware won a 20-man battle royal . . . Danny Davis defeated George "The Animal" Steele by countout . . . Butch Reed pinned Outback Jack . . . Killer Khan beat Cpl. Kirchner . . . The Can-Am Connection beat Cowboy Bob Orton & Magnificent Muraco . . . Koko B. Ware defeated Iron Mike Sharpe . . . One Man Gang defeated S.D. Jones . . . The Islanders defeated Pedro Morales & Tito Santana . . . Ron Bass defeated Lanny Poffo.

—Juan Rodriguez Jr.

MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM (Burlington, VT): Don Rock defeated El Olimpico with the help of his manager, Sheik Ali Abdullah . . . Cousin Butch Cassidy beat Little Steamboat in a midget match . . . Siberian Hammer



pinned **Scott Taylor** ... **John Starr** pinned **The S.S. Stormtrooper** ... **Jamie West** pinned **Ellie May** ... **Prince Alofa** pinned **Mr. Hollywood** for the Canadian TV title ... **Dangerous Davey Gee & Pistol Pete McKay** lost to **Chief Jules Strongbow & Mr. N.J. Tommy Carlo** ... **David Sammartino** defeated **Fabulous Phil Apollo**.

—Gary Langevin

MEMORIAL COLISEUM (Fort Wayne, IN): **The British Bulldogs** defeated **The Hart Foundation** by countout ... **King Kong Bundy** defeated **Hillbilly Jim** by disqualification when **Little Beaver** interfered ... **Junkyard Dog** pinned **Nikolai Volkoff** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** beat **Lanny Poffo** ... **Lelani Kai & Judy Martin** defeated **Angie Minelli & Theresa Dubose** ... **Brad Rheingans** pinned **Frenchy Martin** ... **Tom Magee** beat **Tiger Chung Lee**.

—Ryan Burke

OHIO CENTER (Columbus, OH): **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Harley Race** in a Texas death match ... **Ken Patera** defeated **Cowboy Bob Orton** ... **The British Bulldogs & Junkyard Dog** defeated **The Hart Foundation & Danny Davis** ... **Butch Reed** defeated **Hacksaw Duggan** by disqualification when Duggan hit the referee ... **Randy Savage** beat **Blackjack Mulligan** ... **Billy Jack Haynes** defeated **Outlaw Ron Bass** ... **One Man Gang** pinned **Paul Roma** ... **Iron Sheik** defeated **Dick Slater** ... **Hillbilly Jim** gained a draw with **Paul Orndorff** ... **Jake "The Snake" Roberts & Brutus Beefcake** defeated **King Kong Bundy & Hercules Hernandez** by disqualification.

—Jonathan Cohen

THE OMNI (Atlanta, GA): **Ric Flair, Lex Luger, & Tully Blanchard** defeated **The Freebirds** ... **Nikita Koloff** beat **Dick Murdoch** in a steel cage match ... **Barry Windham** beat **Big Bubba Rogers** by disqualification ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** defeated **Ivan Koloff & Vladimir Petrov** ... **Terry Taylor** and **Chris Adams** were both counted out ... **Eddie Gilbert** defeated **Kendall Windham** ... **The New Breed** beat **Lazor-Tron & Jimmy Valiant** ... **Sting & Rick Steiner** beat **Rick Champion & Baron Von Raschke**.

—Jason Holbrook

RICHMOND COLISEUM (Richmond, VA): **The New Breed** defeated **Baron Von Raschke & Denny Brown** ... **Vladimir Petrov** destroyed **The Italian Stallion** ... **Tully Blanchard** defeated **Kendall Windham** to retain the

NWA TV title ... **The Midnight Express** successfully defended their U.S. tag team title against **Jimmy Valiant & Lazor-Tron** ... **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** defeated **Ivan Koloff & The Ragin' Bull** by disqualification to retain their NWA World tag team belts ... **Ric Flair & Lex Luger** got by **Dusty Rhodes & Nikita Koloff** ... **Ronnie Garvin** destroyed **Jimmy Cornette** in a steel cage match.

—Richard Key

UTC ARENA ROADHOUSE (Chattanooga, TN): **Dusty Rhodes & The Road Warriors** defeated **Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, & Tully Blanchard** ... **Ole Anderson** defeated **Lex Luger** by disqualification ... **Nikita Koloff** defeated **Ivan Koloff** in a Russian chain match ... **Brad & Bob Armstrong** beat **The Midnight Express** by disqualification ... **Baron Von Raschke** pinned **Thunderfoot** ... **Sean Royal** beat **Jeff Belk** ... **Chris Champion** pinned **Jeff Samson**.

—David Pierce

VERDUN AUDITORIUM (Verdun, Quebec): **The Great Mandoza** won \$15,000 by flipping **Head Hunter II** over the top rope in a 16-man battle royal ... **Gino Brito Sr.** defeated **Abdullah The Butcher** by disqualification ... **Steve Strong, Hawaiian Punch, & Dan Kroffat** defeated **Kendo Nagasaki, Pretty Boy Chuck Simmes, & Richard Charland** by disqualification ... **Jason The Terrible** brutalized **Burt Siburte** ... **Bob Della Serra** beat **Dennis Goulet** ... **Len "Kojak" Shelly** pinned **The Dragon II** ... **Louis Laurence** pinned **The Dragon I** ... **Tony Grattillo** pinned **Yvon Lauerdure**.

—Vincent Rivet

RECAP: **The British Bulldogs** teamed with the **Junkyard Dog** to defeat the **Hart Foundation** and **Danny Davis** at the **Ohio Center** in **Columbus**, then defeated them in a two-man match in **Detroit's Joe Louis Arena**. The **Harts** retained the **WWF tag team belts** by disqualification, but the **Bulldogs** could be readying themselves for a title takeover ... **Nikita Koloff** is on a hot streak, defeating his uncle **Ivan Koloff** in a Russian chain match at **Chattanooga's UTC Roadhouse Arena**, then beating **Dick Murdoch** in a steel cage match in **The Omni**. **Nikita** teamed with **Dusty Rhodes** and narrowly lost to **Ric Flair & Lex Luger** ... **Big Bubba Rogers** fared well, destroying **Steve Cox** in the **Cajun Dome** and defeating **Bob Bradley & Jeff Raitz** in a handicap match.

WRESTLING ENQUIRER

J.J. DILLON SUFFERS SEPARATED SHOULDER

Manager Of Four Horsemen Injured As Team Loses "Match Beyond"

By **BILL APTER**

ATLANTA, GA—J.J. Dillon, manager of The Four Horsemen, suffered a separated right shoulder in "The Match Beyond" here and might require surgery. Doctors put Dillon's shoulder in a sling but couldn't say when the manager would be ready to return to wrestle. Dillon's managing duties will not be affected.

Dillon was scheduled for several singles matches against Paul Ellering in the days following this bout but had to cancel all of them. He was expected to miss a return "Match Beyond" in Miami. Dusty Rhodes, Nikita Koloff, The Road Warriors, and Ellering defeated the Horsemen and Dillon in the first-ever "Match Beyond" at The Omni.

assault by Animal, Hawk, and Ellering. Ellering entered the ring wearing a spike from one of the Warriors' outfits and used it to gash Dillon in the head. After the Horsemen stole the spike and bloodied Ellering, the Warriors came back at Dillon.

The Warriors and Ellering used Dillon as a battering ram against the cage. Then Hawk mounted the second rope and executed a flying clothesline while Animal held Dillon. The manager immediately submitted.

"The Match Beyond" was the main event on the July 4 Great American Bash spectacular here. For the first half of the match, wrestlers from each team were allowed in the ring one at a time.



Dark Journey comforts J.J. Dillon before the manager is carried out on a stretcher with what would be diagnosed as a separated shoulder.

Humperdink Signs With WWF

By ANDY RODRIGUEZ



Sir Oliver Humperdink has signed a contract to manage in the WWF.

GREENWICH, CT—Sir Oliver Humperdink, one of the sport's most notorious managers, has signed a contract with the WWF.

Details of the signing were not available at press time, but it appears certain he will manage a stable of rule-breakers. "The House of Humperdink" has long been one of the most feared collectives in the sport.

Humperdink, who is currently in Florida, claims sole responsibility for running Lex Luger and Barry Windham out of town, although both men had signed contracts with other federations prior to their departures. "They never would have left if not for me," said Humperdink. "I put bounties on their heads so they took the first contract they could get."

Humperdink's trademark has been to put up large bounties to get rid of his enemies. But he might have to change his style in the WWF, where the high-paid superstars probably won't be tempted by Humperdink's relatively insignificant wealth. At press time, Humperdink had not signed any wrestlers to contract.

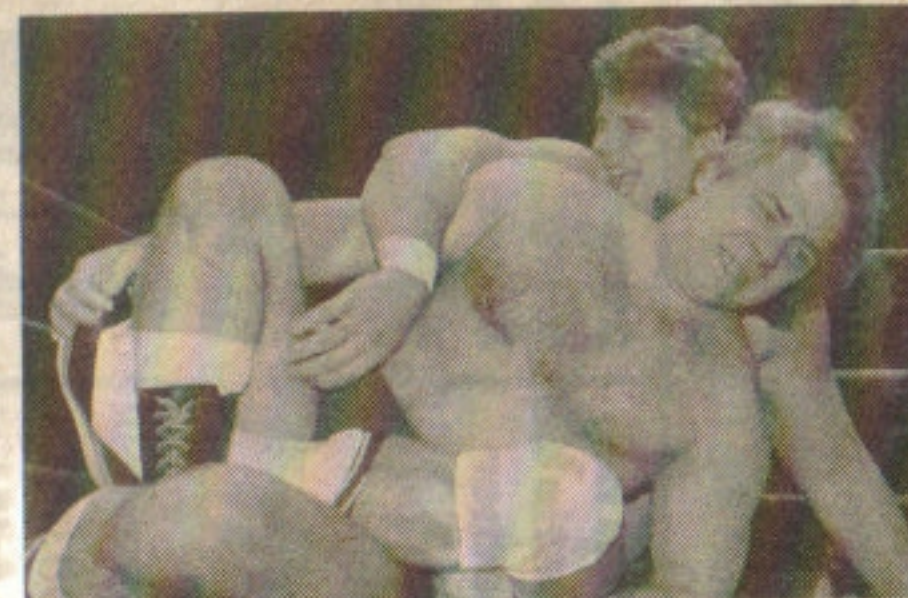
AWA Officials Demand Zbyszko-Hennig Match

By DAVE ROSENBAUM

ST. PAUL, MN—In response to Larry Zbyszko's repeated insistence that he has no connection with AWA World champion Curt Hennig, the AWA Board of Directors has officially demanded that Zbyszko wrestle Hennig for the title.

Zbyszko was the center of controversy on May 2, when Hennig defeated Nick Bockwinkel for the World championship. Ray Stevens and AWA President Stanley Blackburn, seated at ringside, claimed that Zbyszko handed Hennig a foreign object that led to the pin, but videotapes provided no tangible evidence.

Since then, Zbyszko has categorically denied that he handed Hennig a foreign object and, on a recent interview, said that he only gave him ad-



Curt Hennig has been ordered to defend his AWA World title against Larry Zbyszko.

vice. "If that's the case," said Blackburn, "then I see no reason why Zbyszko should not wrestle Hennig for the title. If they have nothing to do with each other, I'm sure Mr. Zbyszko would love a shot at the World championship."

Both Hennig and Zbyszko refused to comment on the AWA's demands.

Akbar Offers Windham Lucrative Contract

By CRAIG PETERS

TULSA, OK—Gen. Skandor Akbar, manager of UWF heavyweight champion Big Bubba Rogers, has offered a lucrative contract to Western States champion Barry Windham, *Wrestling Enquirer* has learned from high-ranking UWF sources.

According to our sources, Akbar is trying to rebuild "Devastation Inc." and would like to corner the market on the top wrestlers in the UWF. A few months ago, Akbar owned Rogers' and former UWF champ One Man Gang's contracts simultaneously, but the General was trying to double-cross Gang. In this case, Akbar actually wants to manage both men at the

same time.

"That is ridiculous, it is a conspiracy against me," said Akbar when confronted with this information. "Why would I want to manage a man like Windham, when he isn't even a man? Back in my home country, he would be on the same level as camel dung, although camel dung is much higher because it comes from much revered and sweet-smelling animal."

Windham, however, confirmed that Akbar has spoken to him. "Akbar's always trying to get me," Windham said. "Obviously, I would never associate myself with somebody like him, although I'm sure he'd love to manage a real wrestler for once."

AROUND THE GLOBE

CALGARY, ALBERTA

Former Sumo wrestler John Tenta, following a successful pro debut in Japan, has arrived in Canada. According to *Wrestling Enquirer* sources, Tenta, a native of Canada, is hoping for a shot at Calgary International champion Owen Hart. "He'd like to use the Calgary title as a steppingstone to Jumbo Tsuruta's All-Japan title," said our source. "Tenta thinks that if he can round out his style, he'll be unbeatable."

CHELTENHAM, ENGLAND

IWF World junior tag team champions The U.S. Express, Johnny DiCarlo and Bryan Walsh, put their belts on the line during a tour of England, where their main challengers were local favorites Danny Collins and Pete Bainbridge. Walsh, of Rhode Island, and DiCarlo, of Boston, successfully defended the title. But the big story is Bainbridge—he's only 15! When he entered the sport at 14, he was Britain's youngest pro ever.

TOKYO, JAPAN

News that Japanese wrestling officials are considering actions to bar The Road Warriors from Japan has leaked out to the public here and been met with considerable protest from wrestling fans. Sources told *Wrestling Enquirer* that fans of the Warriors have mounted a letter writing campaign directed at officials of All-Japan Pro Wrestling. The Warriors currently hold the All-Japan International tag team title.